central VOICE

INSIDE:
Shout out to new virtual community
see pg 4

FREE MARCH/APRIL 2009

Stonewall Veterans to Lead PrideFest Unity Parade

The 2009 Central PA PrideFest Unity Parade will be headed by the Stonewall Veterans Association. The organization's executive committee consists exclusively of actual participants of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, the event honored as the birth place of the modern gay civil rights movement. 2009 is the 40th anniversary of the rebellion.

Parade Chair Mark Smith says "We've signed a contract to have four Stonewall Veterans appear at the beginning of the parade." The group will be escorted by Bikers United and Silent Witness of Central PA.

In June of 1969, Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn was a place for the glbt community to gather.

It was one of the first establishments in which lgbt people, including teenagers, could feel free to be who they were. The Stonewall was a place where people could dance with whomever they chose, at a time when it was illegal for men to dance together.

All that changed on June 27, 1969, when the New York City Police Department raided the Stonewall bar looking for various violations of liquid laws and city ordinances, taking away the security of the community that had gathered at the bar. As result, there were five inconsecutive nights when the glbt community and their supporters fought back.

Protest signs read: "Gay People, Gay Power, Gay Unity, Gay Rights, Gay Marriage." This event became a historical turning point, when the patrons of the Stonewall Inn decided they would no longer hide from society. Instead, they

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What is...

By Frank Pizzoli

While President Barack Obama juggles foreign policy and a recession, will he follow through on his promise of hope for the gay community?

Although gay civil rights demands made on Obama are not "special rights," gay voters are nonetheless one of many "special interests". They must continually lobby, cajole, and write checks to keep their issues before presidential, congressional, and state house eyes.

When gay voters lobbied Bill Clinton early in his administration, he crafted the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, after promising to end the gay military ban. A deeply dismayed gay community felt tricked. Then fell an avalanche of "defense of marriage" acts known as DOMA.

Obama supports DADT repeal after a comprehensive assessment, reversing the federal ban on same-sex marriage, passing an Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), hate crimes legislation, and vigorous HIV funding. In Pennsylvania, Sen. Jim Ferlo has reintroduced a gay hate crimes protections bill, following a court defeat of the last measure.

Since the election, Obama launched "Organizing for America", a presidential advisory group. The gay community's involvement remains to be seen. If Obama supports gay calls

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Churches Affirm Gay Civil Rights

see p. 12

Remembering Keith Haring

see p. 26

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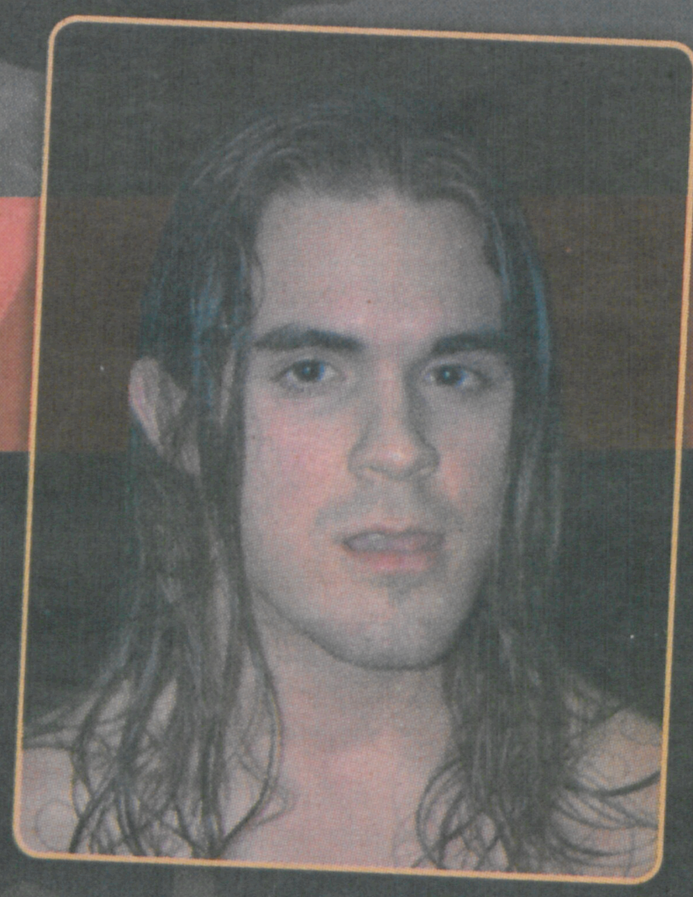

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Sierra Club Honors Catherine McLaughlin

The Sierra Club's National Outings Committee has recognized Orangeville, PA member Catherine McLaughlin as one of its 25 top trip leaders. McLaughlin led a hut-to-hut cross-country ski trip in the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec's Papineau-Labelle Wildlife Reserve.

The trip, which McLaughlin leads annually, features backcountry skiing through a spectacular winter landscape dotted with alpine lakes. Participants ski during the day and stay overnight in a series of rustic cabins spaced eight to 13 miles apart. McLaughlin is a psychologist specializing in the treatment of trauma.

An avid backpacker, McLaughlin also leads day hikes for the Chapter's Otzinachson Group. Like the National outings program, the Otzinachson Group relies on the dedication of its volunteer leaders. The Sierra Club's Outing program, which began over a hundred years ago, was inspired by founder John Muir's belief that exposing members to the living grandeur of the wilderness would motivate them to become advocates for "the preservation of the forests."

McLaughlin says she spent her younger years growing up in Woolrich where she and her two sisters and a brother "were always outside, along with all the kids in town." She recalls the back yard and nearby woods as "enchanted places where we wandered endlessly, along with the creek with its tire swing where our dad taught us to swim." They also rode bikes down the tree lined streets and played ball until dusk and reluctantly made our way home and to bed by the light of the fireflies."

She remembers when they drove to an overlook "and watched a terrific lightening storm in the distance like giant flashbulbs exploding in bursts of light with deafening cracks of thunder." As a child she experienced nature as a realm of beauty and mystery but also as second nature, the details of the child's world were completely familiar and intimate. "It was only later that I came to realize that this magical and wondrous natural world was also fragile and finely balanced and needed human care and consideration as well," she reflects.

McLaughlin worries about climate changes. "Shifting patterns of rainfall and drought is already having catastrophic consequences across the globe. The disinformation campaign about the human component to our global threat is a leaf taken right out of the tobacco files," she says.

Her leadership skills developed over time, influenced by her professional experiences as a psychologist and by many years leading hikes in Pennsylvania for her local Sierra Club group, Otzinachson. "Volunteering allowed me to grow self-confident and comfortable making decisions and dealing with the unexpected, and for this ski trip in particular, by having a wonderful mentor, Linda Cooper who developed the trip originally," McLaughlin says.

Outdoor-oriented people tend to be self-regulating folks who are comfortable being team players and sociable but who are equally at peace being alone. "As leaders, my husband Ed, my assistant leader on the ski trip, and I must have all the details for the trip in place, including being certified in Wilderness First Aid, but mostly we are able to lead by enthusiasm and with an extremely light touch."

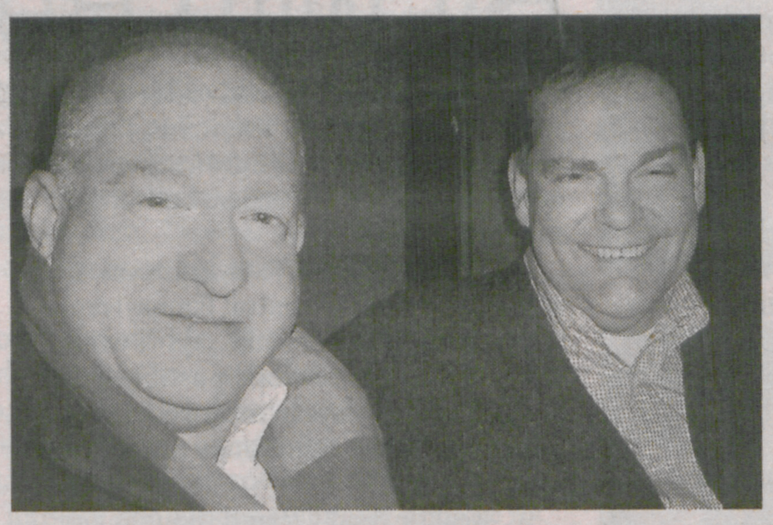
Common Roads and LGBT Center Coalition Merge

January 8, 2009, Common Roads and the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania formally merged into one organization. Coming after several months of careful study and review by boards of directors of both organizations, the formal merger resolution was adopted unanimously. The newly merged organization will temporarily retain the name "LGBT Community Center Coalition" while a new name is being decided with the help of public comment directed through a naming contest.

"The merger represents a coming together of two unique and strong voices," explained Ted Martin, newly elected president of the merged board. "We think this is a bold step to greatly improve and expand services offered to central Pennsylvania's LGBT community."

The organizations began to seriously consider merging into one group in early summer 2008. As those discussions began, the leadership of both groups quickly realized that their primary constituencies were very similar. And while the groups they each served were different, a sense of a shared mission was swiftly forged.

"I think everyone on the board of the Community Center quickly reached the conclusion that we were stronger as one organization than as two," said David Zwifka, founding and former board president of the LGBT Community Center Coalition. "Let's face it, as small nonprofits in a turbulent economy, it just makes sense to work together. I think after we get through the initial few months of making sure all the pieces of this puzzle fit, we'll be in far better shape to support the community and become a greater presence."



Ted Martin and David Zwifka

The LGBT Community Center Coalition is much newer to the area having grown from a 2004 strategic-planning group called together by the Equity for Gays and Lesbians Fund (EGAL) of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) to survey the community and study the feasibility of an LGBT regional community center. Through a number of facilitated and self-driven sessions, exploring the community center "concept" gave birth to a board of directors that has been meeting monthly since November 2006. In the past two years, the Coalition has supported other LGBT organizations primarily through the underwriting of events. For Common Roads, a community center had been on their minds for many years. "We were involved from the beginning with the discussions on a community center. Common Roads had always planned to become a part of any community center that was created for the region," said Curtis Fenstermacher, former board president of Common Roads. In existence for over 15 years, Common Roads has served LGBTQ youth exclusively, offering education, mentoring, safe space and overall support. Numerous "alumni" of the program have gone on to productive lives both here in central Pennsylvania and elsewhere, and the name "Common Roads" has become synonymous in the area with strong advocacy on behalf of young people.

Moving forward, the newly merged organization faces a number of challenges not the least of which is the bringing together of both groups while keeping their strengths, programs and strategic visions intact. "The merger was done amicably," Martin elaborated. "Every effort has been taken to ensure that the unique identities and missions of each organization are respected and furthered."

Chief among Martin's goals for the new organization is a significant increase in visibility and programming as well as locating a new physical shared space. He also stresses the need for public education on issues of importance to the LGBT community and believes this important goal can be achieved through more public events and a significant effort to build understanding through coalitions with other community organizations. Martin also wants to see an increased dialog with faith communities as well as a strong continuance of advocacy for young LGBT people.

"The LGBT Community Center Coalition remains committed to working together with other LGBT organizations in the area to find ways for greater cooperation, collaboration and mutual growth," he explained. "For this organization to succeed, we must become a larger public presence. In fact, it is important for us to be seen as a facilitator of events AND conversation. That's where our value will be found."

In closing, he pointed to the upcoming Winter Arts Festival as the first step in improving the Center's visibility. "This exciting festival was planned jointly by the boards of Common Roads and the Center Coalition and includes, among others, the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus and Positive Opportunities. It is a perfect first step for the merged group, and I think everyone who attends will have a wonderful time and learn something on top of it," he concluded

The Winter Arts Festival runs Jan. 17 to Feb. 21 and is coordinated through a central box office (717-910-0204). Proceeds benefit the Community Center Coalition and directly support the efforts of program arm, Common Roads. Contributing festival organizations will also be in line to benefit from event proceeds.

The mission of the LGBT Center Coalition is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in Central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, educational and cultural activities that foster wholeness. For more information on the merger or the Winter Arts Festival, go to www.centralpalgbtcenter.org or call (717) 920-9534.

find more community voice on page 5

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RIVENDELL MEDIA
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PUBLISHED BY
Press And Journal, Inc.
20 South Union Street
Middletown, PA
717-944-4628
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publisher's note

Building Blocks Not Ramrods

Frank Pizzoli

If the gay community wants to expand its basic civil rights, there's a simple path to follow. Make building blocks. Don't be a ramrod.

Yes, we've borne the brunt of ridicule and resentment. Straight boneheads never seem to tire of fag jokes. That idiot on The Sopranos couldn't rest until his two-digit IQ goons smashed in the head of a mob homo. In real life, we've been murdered for being gay.

Most people vehemently opposed to our open presence in their daily lives are gay themselves or have not resolved themselves to having a gay child or relative. We know all about these weasels. So what? Let's take the high road.

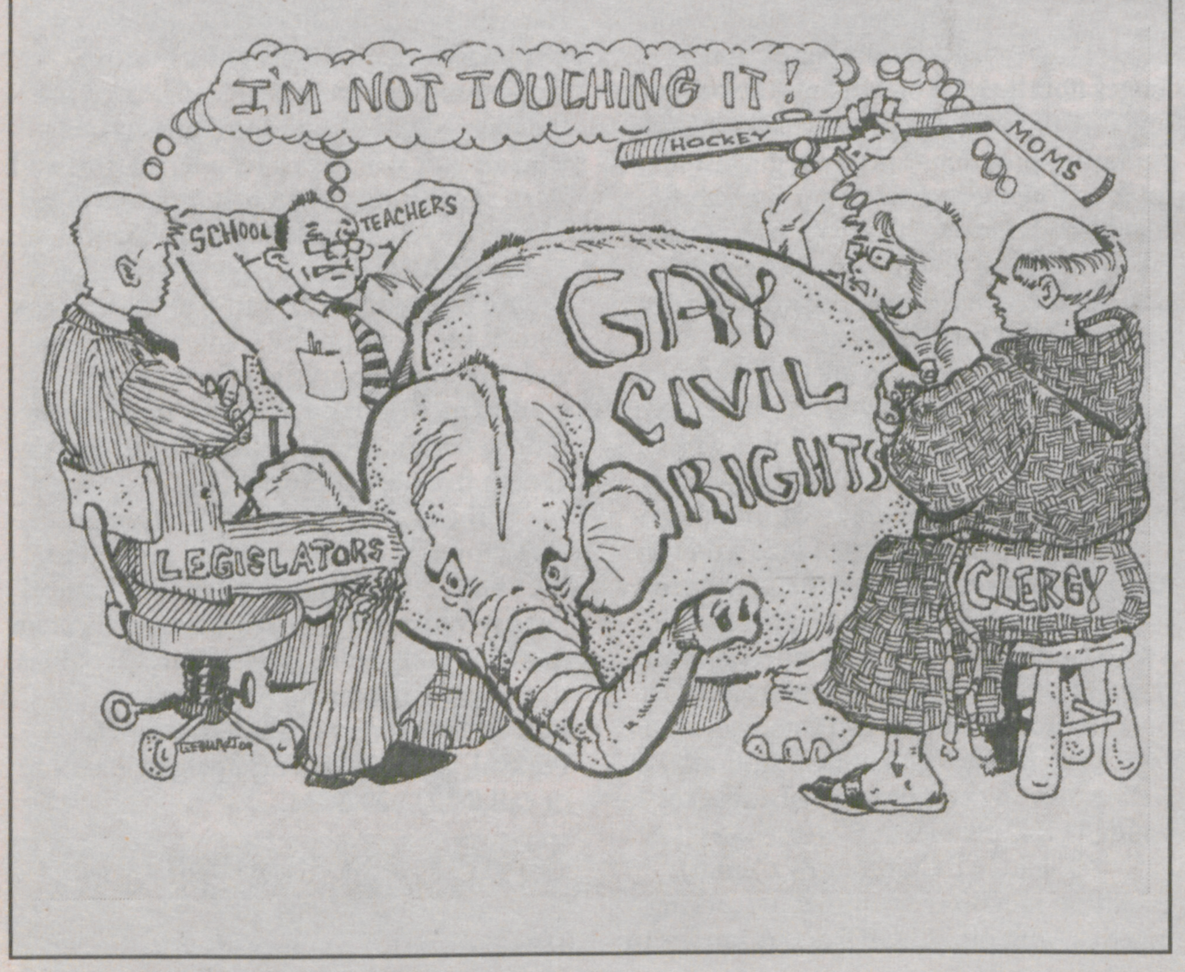
The high road isn't the wimp road. The high road includes coming out – really out, not just to a safe circle of friends in a dimly lit corner of a gay bar. Really out means you don't pretend to be straight at work. Really out doesn't mean you avoid the truth at family reunions and then rush back to a partner telling how awful it was. It doesn't mean you wear prom drag either. It means you are comfortable enough in your own skin to not fake being straight.

I've heard so many times that our enemies change their view of us after getting know one of us. Yet, so many of us still hide in the face of what we know to be true – coming out of the closet is an exit from oppression. There are no throw-away people. Every person is needed to make an economy vigorous. Each of us brings something unique to the workplace, business, schools, the dance floor.

The uniqueness of our community is exposed to others only if we allow ourselves to be vulnerable. Others who hate us only see what we let them see. Talking, and talking some more, with faith-based communities that dislike us is imperative. We also must engage the African-American community at all levels to better explain our plight. Civil rights isn't a race to the top of a totem pole to reach most aggrieved status. Civil rights isn't a pie with a finite shape that only feeds so many. Achieving our civil rights does not diminish the rights of others.

Let's stop the practice of making point-by-point comparisons of our civil rights struggle with the African-American experience. Our journeys are similar but not identical. Even so, both groups of people are equally deserving of basic and full civil rights. Not being identical in our struggles doesn't mean one group gets knocked out the fight and should roll over. By engaging in this endless debate we drain valuable energy away from the basic issue – all taxpayers deserve equal treatment under the law and in employment, public accommodations, relationships, and all pursuits of happiness.

Now, about that ramrod thing. There are, and will be, times when we must congregate noisily and in great numbers to renounce those who would keep us second class citizens. That IS a lesson we never really learned from the black community and we would do well to respectfully imitate. We must announce that we will not live in a nation under a system of taxation without representation. We are not damaged goods.



Virtual Community a Hit with Readers

Central Voice recently added a virtual community to its mix. Known as – thecentralvoice.ning.com – the growing social network is a hit with readers both inside and outside the region.

Trueindigo says "Staying connected with all going on in central Pennsylvania is my focus. Member Mike says "I would love to be able to network, possibly blog, but also to find ways to meet people and do things within the community other than bars."

Realtor Brad Cleland thought he'd open a profile "to network and meet new people. I am always looking for new friends, getting to know people. Collecting experiences and memories is what life is about.

Gentlemen of Berks & Beyond commented "We would like to see the community come together and grow in a positive productive way.

Member Erica wants to "think of a discussion topic at some point." Knoebel's Summer Picnic organizer Mike Escobar asked online about the history of Pride. Another member commented "A poetry blog sounds great! Now, where to begin?" One member noted "Nice job on posting Conn. Supreme Court's ruling! Central Voice will be a place to turn and count on."

Central Voice sales executive Steve Kozokas says "It will be a blast I'm sure!"

Midtown Cinema Offers Creative Space

"We're a multi-purpose creative space," says energetic manager Zane Sebasovich. Under his leadership, the popular independent movie theatre has added "Poetry Thursdays," a writers' group, and special classic film screenings with lectures.

"Midtown Cinema is known for bringing the best films to central Pennsylvania. The legacy that Allen Brown and Todd Shill created will live on under the GreenWorks Development plan, with a few additions," Sebasovich says.

Like any new executive, Sebasovich painted the lobby walls to announce his arrival. "Actually, we wanted to spruce up the front portion of the facility so we painted and hope to have new furniture in the Reel Café," he says.

Public service organizations and creative groups are welcome to use the space. "We're actively providing outlets for people to be creative," he says. Mondays the cinema hosts a "Film Club". Wednesdays creative writers meet and critique each others' work. Thursdays is Poetry Night which is growing every week. Sundays at 3 p.m. a special guest takes us "Behind the Reel" to learn about film making, story telling, and how classic films stand the test of time.

"There are many options for people in the region to be entertained, but we actually want to create by entertaining ourselves together," he says. This does not negate the fact that the cinema's goal is to show great films. "In addition to quality film, we want to create a new market," he says, "one that cross fertilizes art, culture, creativity, curiosity, passion, influence and information. That's our purpose."

Making Anger Pay:

Employment Rights and Civil Liberties

By State Rep. Babette Josephs

On Nov. 4, we proved that Americans care about each other, children, our planet and democracy; voters did something I would never have imagined even two years ago by electing Barack Obama. But things were not golden everywhere: in California, Proposition 8, which sought to ban same-sex marriage, passed by 52 percent of the vote - a major step backwards.

People are angry -- as they should be. All families deserve to be valued. No family is second-class. No individual should be forced to remain single. No child ought to be raised outside of marriage just because some adults are small-minded, biased and unfair. But not everyone in the LGBTQ community (or the straight community, for that matter) wants to marry. Same-sex marriage puts the pressure on -- sometimes where it is not wanted.

Being single, footloose, carefree and non-traditional has its fans (in both communities), but being discriminated against in the workplace sucks for everyone.

Those of us in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Erie County and 11 other communities in the Commonwealth have recourse if we are denied a job, refused a promotion, evicted from our apartment or thrown out of public accommodation based on our sexual orientation, but the remaining 75 percent of the state's more than 12 million residents do not live with such protection. That's why the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission's job should be expanded.

Your rights should not depend on whether your town or county has decided to protect them. Every Pennsylvanian deserves this help.

Several of my colleagues and I worked diligently last session to correct this deficiency. Two bills to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity were introduced: one in the House and one in the Senate. As chairwoman of the House State Government Committee, tasked with review of the legislation, I held public hearings across the state to gather testimony from any Pennsylvanian interested in participating. I am proud to have organized the first-ever official Pennsylvania General Assembly-sponsored hearings on a lesbian-gay issue.

Last September, the committee was poised to report out the historic legislation, but the Catholic Conference and the Pennsylvania Family Institute ignited fears and the bill had to be withdrawn -- not such a different scenario than in California.

These legislators who succumbed to anti-gay hysteria disregarded the wishes of their constituencies. A Susquehanna Polling and Research poll reported 86 percent of Pennsylvanians believe there should be workplace equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; 84 percent supported laws prohibiting discrimination in housing; and 89 percent favored equal access to public accommodations. Those are enormous margins; they show that most Pennsylvanians already know that ensuring protection from these kinds of discrimination is the right thing to do.

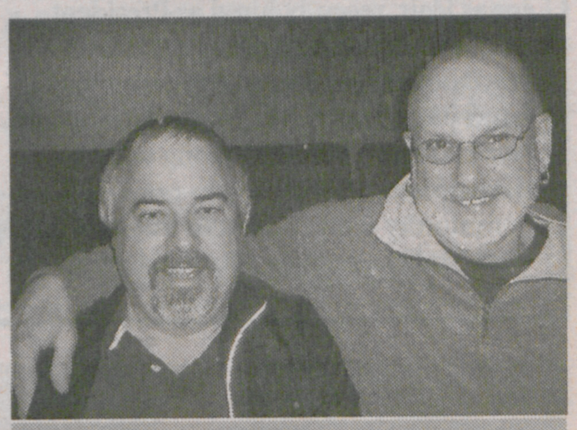
It's also the smart thing to do for our economy. Nationwide, 20 states – including our neighbors of Maryland, New Jersey and New York – already have laws that ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Twelve states, including New Jersey, have laws banning job discrimination based on gender identity. These states have a competitive advantage over Pennsylvania when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses and residents.

As the economy continues to decline and jobs are lost, we can and must do more to ensure equal employment rights for all Pennsylvanians, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. But elected officials cannot do it without you. Get active in organizations that protect civil liberties. Write the gay and straight press. Talk gay rights up with your neighbors, friends and family. Involve your church, synagogue, mosque or temple. As the 2009-10 legislative session gets under way, let's turn our anger over Prop 8 into making Pennsylvania a better place for everyone.

Josephs is chairwoman of the House State Government Committee.

Winter Arts Festival Faces

2009 Winter Arts Festival brought out lots of familiar and few new faces. The multi-event venue offered choral music, a film festival, stage shows, and a big ole night at Club XS.



find more community voice on page 19

letters to the editor

Looks Great

The latest issue looks great!

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Thank You

Thanks for your support. I personally appreciate it.

Gary Bartlet
Midtown Harrisburg Arts Center

AIDS Community Alliance Addresses Black HIV Awareness

When State Rep. Jake Wheatley, D-Allegheny, gathered lawmakers and health-care leaders under the Capitol dome last month to highlight National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, AIDS Community Alliance of South Central Pennsylvania CEO Phil Goropoulos and Hamilton Health Center's Regina King each addressed the assembled onlookers and media.

"As a regional HIV/AIDS service network, ACA addresses HIV in the African-American and other communities every day," Goropoulos said.

King reminded the crowd that "AIDS is now the leading cause of death for African American women ages 25 to 34. It is the second leading cause of death for African American men ages 35 to 44."

There are more than 1 million people in the US living with HIV. One-fourth of them do not know that they are HIV-infected.

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS, and it is hitting African Americans hard. Even though African Americans represent only 13 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for 49 percent of all new cases of HIV/AIDS in 2005.

"Even though African Americans comprise about 13 percent of the US population, one-half of the estimated new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the US in 2005 were for African Americans. Prevention is important, and we need people around the state to raise awareness of this problem," said Wheatley, who is vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus. Wheatley introduced House Resolution (H.R. 46) proclaiming Feb. 7 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the Commonwealth.

Other speakers included House Democratic Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster; State Rep. Ron Waters, D-Phila./Delaware, chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus; State Sen. Vincent Hughes, D-Phila./Montgomery; Janice Kopelman, deputy secretary for health promotion and disease prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

In Pennsylvania, information on HIV and AIDS and confidential HIV testing sites is available from the state's AIDS fact line – 1-800-662-6080. State and national information on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the impact of HIV and AIDS on African Americans is available at www.blackaidsday.org.

Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center Launches "First Friday"

Months ago Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center launched First Friday "with an overall great response," says the center's Gary Bartlett. "We have kept this going and each month certain galleries participate as it fits their schedule," he explains about the new, popular and much needed new venue.

Bartlett says First Fridays and HMAC's development is significant for Harrisburg "as participants transform themselves from independent operators - with just our mailing lists - into a destination city by using all our mailing lists together. The effort markets to both city and outlying residents.

Although previously area galleries were picking up on the First Friday concept, it was Progressive Galleries owner Jonas Hair, recently hired as President of Entertainment Booking at HMAC, who took the lead in coordinating the concept. Hair remains owner of Progressive Galleries. His goal, along with the participating galleries, is to provide the community with consistent monthly First Friday evenings of art and entertainment.

As time has progressed and with Hair now part of the new Midtown center, Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center's President Gary Bartlett has passed the torch to take the nights of cultural entertainment to new heights. Bartlett's past experience not only easily makes the move a perfect fit but also promises ever-changing concepts and excitement for all participants and attendees.

About the much needed venue, Bartlett says, "With an overall great response, we have kept this going and each month certain galleries participate as it fits their schedule."

Among participants so far are Susquehanna Art Museum, Art Association of Harrisburg, Arts at 510, Art House Lounge, The Mantis Collective Gallery Blu, Brass Monkey & Radius.

Info: Go to thecentralvoice.ning.com Calendar for updates on "First Friday" events or the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center, 1110 3rd St., Harrisburg at http://www.harrisburgarts.com.

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Political IQ: What Gays Owe Black America

By Diane Silver

Judging by the stinging e-mails I've received, some of my fellow white queers haven't gotten over their post-Proposition 8 anger at African Americans. A faulty exit poll and even worse reporting led some to believe that it was those dastardly blacks who did in same-sex marriage in California.

I'll leave the debunking to others. Numbers guru Nate Silver (fivethirtyeight.com) and political scientists Patrick Egan (New York University) and Kenneth Sherrill (Hunter College) have done a great job of showing that this idea is just plain wrong.

But queer America needs to understand one other important fact, and we need to get it now. If the civil rights movement had never happened, we probably wouldn't have the few rights we enjoy today. We wouldn't be poised to enter a new era of equality if it hadn't been for the sacrifices of African Americans.

Their path has been a four-century slog. Black America pulled itself from slavery to emancipation, from Jim Crow segregation and Ku Klux Klan lynchings to peaceful marches that were met by whites with baseball bats and fire hoses.

African Americans progressed through the _Brown v. Topeka Board of Education_ litigation that broke the legal back of segregation. They advanced through the sacrifices of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and all the heroes - celebrated and unsung - who sweated, sat in, and stood up for what is right.

Today you, I, and every other lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered soul stand on their shoulders. (Let's also not forget that civil rights activists who were both LGBT and African American, like Bayard Rustin, helped build that foundation. Among other accomplishments, Rustin organized the 1963 march on Washington.)

African Americans turned "all men are created equal" from a bunch of pretty words in the Declaration of Independence into a challenge. They forced the United States of America to put up or shut up.

Where would queer America be today if black America hadn't made that challenge? By putting their lives on the line, African Americans literally forged the path the LGBT community has followed for the last 40 years.

African-American attorneys tested and honed the legal principles our attorneys use today to win equality. Building on top of the nonviolent tactics pioneered by Gandhi, the civil rights movement taught us how such an approach can work in the United States.

Civil rights activists also schooled this nation on the idea that policies can't be judged by their popularity. Segregation, racial discrimination, and prohibitions on interracial marriage were once beloved by the majority of Americans, but that didn't make those hateful policies right, or constitutional. This simple principle is the base upon which every argument for LGBT equality stands today.

Of course, there is one other gift bequeathed to us from the civil rights movement and its African-Americans leaders. This movement taught that what is impossible today may merely be improbable tomorrow. And on the day after that? Well, on that day, the impossible will have come true. We saw that happen when Barack Obama was sworn in as president.

Homophobia and ignorance about sexual orientation and gender identity do exist in heart-breaking measure within the black community. I suspect these ills live for a variety of reasons.

The primary source of antigay bigotry is religion, and many African Americans attend conservative churches. As much as attitudes have advanced over time, we still live in a homophobic country. Nasty antigay stereotypes continue to be the default settings in the brains of many, regardless of race. White LGBT leaders have compounded these problems by too often failing to work with heterosexual African Americans, or by only seeking self-serving alliances. Why should we expect black America to support us in our time of need if we don't return the favor?

I surprised myself on January 20. I expected to be irritated by mega-church pastor Rick Warren's invocation, and I was. By the end of the inauguration, though, Warren's appearance was just a fading memory.

As I watched the event in a living room with 20 lesbian and straight friends, I unexpectedly found myself standing when the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung. I hadn't intended to do that, but then one person in the room stood and then another. It seemed right to get up, even though my gesture would only be witnessed by my friends.

We reached out to each other. Holding hands, we belted out the national anthem. Tears streamed down my face, and I wasn't the only one crying.

I have never felt more love for my country than I did on that day, when a new president called on Americans to perfect our union. The fact that an African American was the president issuing that challenge was even more proof that one day we really shall _all_ overcome.

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose work has appeared in The Progressive, Salon.com, Ms, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com.

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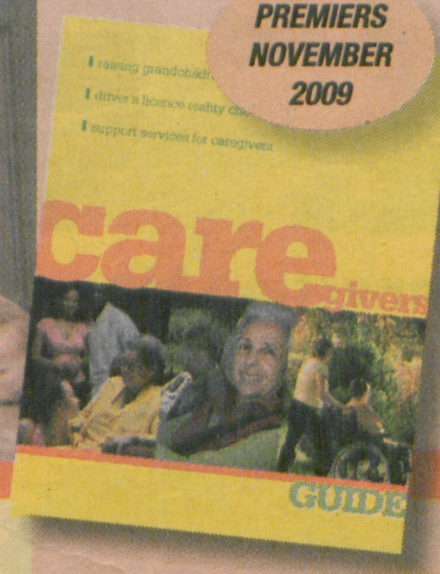

- Our caregivers are the more than 50 million people providing care for the chronically ill, disabled or aged family member, friend or neighbor.
- Two-thirds have jobs in addition to caring for another person.
- Most are middle-aged: 35-64 years old.
- 30% caring for seniors are themselves 65 and over.
- About 75% of caregivers are women.

Over 90% of caregivers are actively seeking the resources and services they need. care givers guide will help educate and assist local caregivers with useful tools and information.

40,000 copies of care givers *guide will be available through* **Today at 50+** *and* **Woman** *magazines at pharmacies, hospitals, medical facilities, professional offices and other select locations throughout Central Pennsylvania. That's a readership of 172,000!*

PUBLICATION DATE:
November 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dave Brown, Sales Manager
717-944-4628

A comprehensive guide from the publisher of: VOICE

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The Diary of Anne Frank by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich
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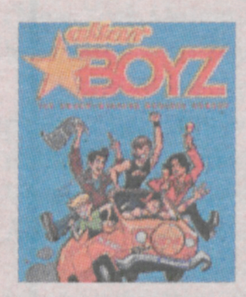
Tickets: Online or 717-214-ARTS. Subscription & Group Sales call 717-232-OPEN.

STRAND CAPITOL



Altar Boyz: The award winning musical comedy
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It would be a sin to miss this lighthearted spoof of boy bands and religion. This winner of Best Off-Broadway Musical was composed by York Countian Michael Patrick Walker.
Info: www.strandcapitol.org, 846-1111

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HARRISBURG SYMPHONY

Andrew von Oeyen is featured soloist for Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 Feb. 21, 8 p.m. and Feb. 22, 3 p.m., Forum, 5th & Walnut Sts. downtown Harrisburg. Tickets $10 - $60 online at HarrisburgSymphony.org or 717/545-5527.

Empty House Tour - March 14, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.; March 15, Noon – 4 p.m.
Visit the house before the designers bring the space to life. Tickets $5 available at HarrisburgSymphony.org, or 545-5527, via mail or at the door.

TOTEM POLE PLAYHOUSE

When picking a season for the Totem Pole Playhouse, Artistic Director, Ray Ficca, equates it to putting on a carnival that lasts the whole summer. "I want our patrons to feel that there will always be something new, different, and exciting." For 2009 - The Cotton Patch Gospel, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, You Say Tomatoes, I Hate Hamlet, The Queen of Bingo, Tuesdays with Morrie, season starts with annual, free Theatre Fun Fest May 24, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Info: 888-805-7056; www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org.

HERSHEY THEATRE

Happy Days - A New Musical Swings into Hershey Theatre Goodbye gray skies, hello blue – Happy Days – A New Musical brings music from the 50's to Hershey Theatre April 21- 26. Tickets on sale now. Based on Paramount Pictures' hit television series, Happy Days – A New Musical is set in 1959 Milwaukee and reintroduces one of America's best-loved families, the Cunninghams, complete with familiar friends, Richie, Potsie, Ralph Malph, Joanie and Chachi, Pinky Tuscadero and of course, the king of cool: Arthur "The Fonz" Fonzarelli.
717-534-3405 or online at hersheytheatre.com and livenation.com.

WHITAKER CENTER

How People Make Things
Through May 10
Inspired by the Mister Rogers' Factory Tours, this colorful exhibition takes visitors right to the factory floor to experience the roles of designer, engineer, maker and manufacturer, as they cut, mold, form and assemble everyday items - from crayons to bicycles. The completely hands-on and interactive exhibition helps tell the story of how people, ideas and technology transform raw materials into finished products. Sponsored by Bayer HealthCare and Phoenix Contact.

Monsters vs. Aliens: An IMAX 3D Experience
Opens March 27
When a meteorite from outer space hits a young California girl named Susan Murphy and turns her into a giant monster, she is taken to a secret government compound where she meets a ragtag group of monsters also rounded up over the years. As a last resort, under the guidance of General W.R. Monger, on a desperate order from The President, the motley crew of Monsters is called into action to combat the aliens and save the world from imminent destruction! This film is not yet rated. Please note special pricing applies for feature films.

GAMUT THEATRE

Uppity Women Unite when Gamut Theatre Group presents Aristophanes' Lysistrata, a classical comedy – absolutely unabashedly bawdy – dealing with some surprisingly serious (and humorous) questions about war, deprivation, and the relationships between men and women, peace and coming together in unity. Director Karen Ruch says "I really want the audience to be tantalized by this play." March 7 – 29, Gamut Classic Theatre, 3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg. Performances Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m. Tickets $25 general admission; $17 students & seniors. Sun. BYOP (Bring Your Own Price), where any size donation buys your ticket to the show. Info: 717.238.4111; www.gamutplays.org.

Combined Reviews of Books, DVDs and CDs

MUSIC

Rihanna
International superstar, Rihanna, is ready to release Good Girl Gone Bad – "The Remixes" a new version of her double platinum, chart topping album. The collection features new versions of Rihanna's hits; remixed by today's hottest dance producers including Tony Moran, Seamus Haji, Jody Den Broeder, Moto Blanco and Wideboys.

William Control
William Control's pounding electro-rock romp "Death-club" is the perfect track to sate any budding vampire's bloodlust! The track has been remixed by Wes Borland and Renholder (Nine Inch Nails, Marilyn Manson) for upcoming movie Underworld 3: Rise of The Lycans, and feature's Matt Skiba from Alkaline Trio.

Annie Lennox
The Annie Lennox Collection paints a vivid portrait in song of the most successful female British artist in pop music history. This 14-song retrospective brings together the acclaimed artist's finest solo work on a single disc for the first time, and includes a pair of new songs available exclusively with this release.

LMFAO
Go to youtube.com and see the popular "I'm In Miami Trick" by LMFAO. Taken from "Party Rock" (Interscope).

Local Maggie Lakis Appeared in Hershey's Avenue Q

Attended Lancaster's Lampeter Strasburg H.S.

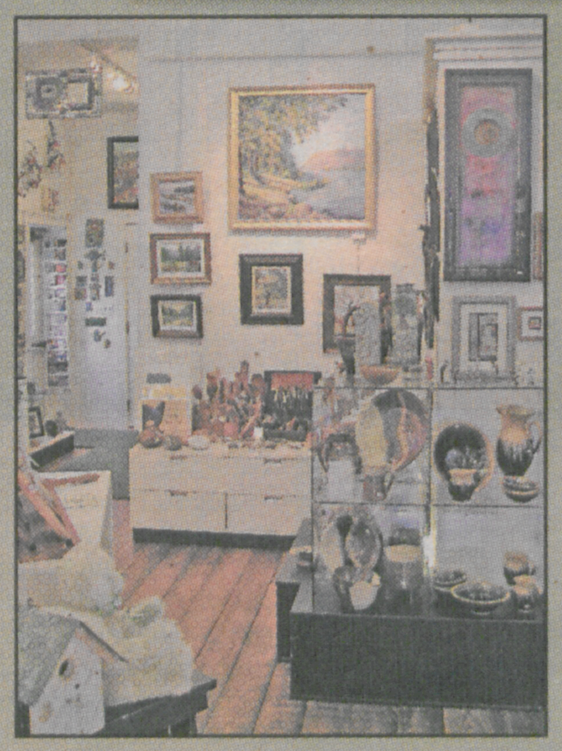
When the hit Broadway show Avenue Q ran in Hershey last month, cast member Maggie Lakis hit the boards with the cast. She's been with the national touring company since June 2007. Lakis attended Lampeter Strasburg High School, just outside Lancaster. She now lives in Philadelphia.

"I'd always enjoyed the arts, especially theatre. My parents took me to Fulton Opera House and Philadelphia venues to see shows," Lasik says. She started hitting the boards in high school "and by then I knew theatre and performing were for me," she says. Lasik studied theatre at Temple University.

Commenting on the demands of today's multi-task theatre world, Lasik acknowledges that the old "act, sing, and dance" troika of skills has morphed to now include so much more. Avenue Q requires most characters to synchronize their acting with puppets animated by puppeteers they cannot see. "We went to a puppet camp to practice and learn and get through a selection process," Lasik explains. Her part, as with most characters in the show, required heavy directing in order to make the show work for the audience. She recalled how in seeing the most recent Broadway production of the 1907s classic Equus in which humans play all the horse parts. "Simply amazing , so real you forget the horses are actually people."

Lakis' regional theatre credits also include Tin Pan Alley Rag Wilma Theater, Box Office of the Damned with 1812 Productions, Grease! Lenape RPAC, And Then They Came for Me, The Boxcar Children, Sideways Stories from Wayside School, A Year with Frog and Toad, The BFG, and Ferdinand the Bull at the Arden Theatre.

THE VILLAGE ARTISANS
Gallery • Studios



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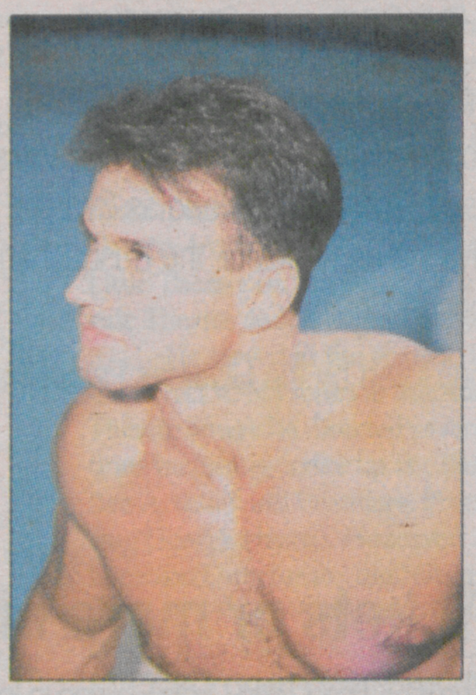

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Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra 2008-2009

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Masterworks

3/28 + 3/29 | Memories and Celebrations

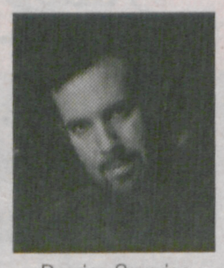
- Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin
- Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23
  (Tanya Bannister, Piano)
- Strauss: Serenade for Winds
- Shostakovich: Symphony No. 9

4/25 + 4/26 | Tosca

Othalie Graham
Tosca

Grant Youngblood
Scarpia

Dinyar Vania
Cavaradossi



Damian Savarino
Angelotti

- Puccini: Tosca

(Concert version with supertitles. Vocalists include Othalie Graham as Tosca, Grant Youngblood as Scarpia, Dinyar Vania as Cavaradossi, Damian Savarino as Angelotti, the Susquehanna Chorale and the Messiah College Concert Choir.)

Sponsored by the Glatfelter Family Foundation.

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3/14 + 3/15 | The King of Swing: A Tribute to Benny Goodman

The year 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary American Jazz musician and clarinetist, Benny Goodman. Jump, jive and wail to hot jazz tunes of the Swing Era as we welcome clarinetist Dave Bennett. Guaranteed to have your toes tappin and your fingers snappin'!

Sponsored by Capital BlueCross.

Special Events

4/28 | Stuart & Friends

Stuart Malina will play the piano and be joined by David DiGiacobbe, Flute; Odin Rathnam, Violin; Julius Wirth, Viola; and Fiona Thompson, Cello.

- Poulenc: Sonata for Flute & Piano
- Haydn: Trio for Flute, Cello & Piano
- Dvorak: Piano Quartet in A Major

Tickets for this special event are available by calling THE BOX at 214-ARTS (2787) or online at WhitakerCenter.org.

Sponsored by Marilynn R. Kanenson in memory of Dr. William Kanenson.

Tickets or more information?

Visit HarrisburgSymphony.org or call 717-545-5527.

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Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
STUART MALINA, *Music Director*

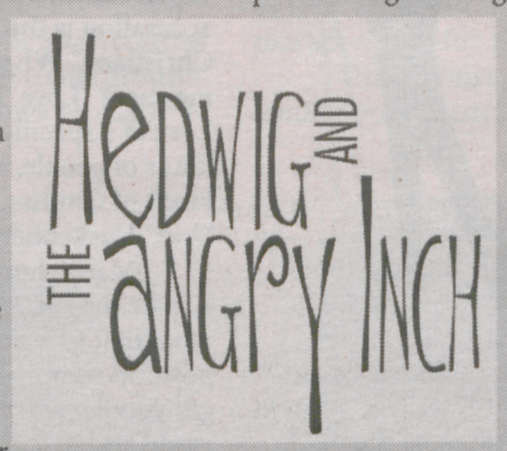
Hedwig and the Angry Inch at Open Stage

April 17 Gala Opening Night Party

"Ladies and Gentleman, whether you like it or not – Hedwig!"

So opens one of the most unusual, fascinating, touching and hilarious stories of sexual identity you may ever see.

Already a cult hit with an international following, Hedwig and the Angry Inch defies categorization. It is a rock concert, an extended monologue and a play that tells the story of a transsexual punk rock girl from East Berlin in her own words.



Hedwig Schmidt is on tour with her rock band the Angry Inch. An "internationally-ignored rock goddess," she is appearing at Bilgewater Seafood Restaurants across the country as she follows Tommy Gnosis, the man she taught to rock and who stole her music, her career and her fame, on his much more acclaimed tour. But Hedwig's bad luck doesn't end with betrayal and theft. She is also the victim of a botched sex change operation that leaves her with just an "angry inch."

Her story is told in the form of a rock gig/stand-up comedy routine backed by her hard-rocking band "The Angry Inch." Using songs and monologues, Hedwig tells her story, which began in the former East Berlin where, as Hansel he, meets Luther, an American GI who promises to take the young man to the States on the condition that he switch his sex.

After the bungled operation, Luther abandons newly named Hedwig in a Kansas trailer park. There she turns to music and meets geeky Tommy Speck. Hedwig takes Tommy under her wing and soon falls for him. But when Tommy discovers Hedwig's anatomical misfortune, he steals her songs and uses them to achieve rock star fame. So Hedwig, cast aside for a second time, decides to demand redress and stalks Tommy's world tour, telling her story along the way.

But Hedwig and the Angry Inch is more than a story of an obsessed rocker. It is also an amazing exploration of love, sex and gender identity. Hedwig is not a true transgendered woman. As Hansel, Hedwig was comfortable in his skin as a gay man, and did not feel as if he'd been born female in a male shell. What Hansel becomes is a "neither-nor" – neither man nor woman. She represents instead the split between genders.

In an interview with PopMatters.com, Hedwig's author, John Cameron Mitchell, described her journey this way, "It is Hedwig's story, about what she does with the inch that she's given in life, how she finds a way to think of herself as whole. And it's hopefully an earned realization rather than a tacked on one, and she really has come through a lot, and has created, through circumstance and will, a person that's new. She [begins thinking] of herself as neither man nor woman, or half a man, but she realizes that she's both, by accident. And it's better than being one."

Mitchell also discovered a lot about his own sexual identity while writing and performing Hedwig. He says, "I certainly wanted Hedwig's world to be one where identification and categories are fluid, changing, and confusing, as they are, really, in life.

"You know, coming out as a gay man, it was very much about finding my own identity and dealing with labeling.I quickly found that I didn't really fit into "gay culture," as identified by many gay people, and that it can be just as confining as straight culture, not least in the way that bisexual people are told that 'they can't make up their mind.' I mean, the variety of sexuality versus gender, as these can be quite mutually exclusive: even just in doing Hedwig, I've learned a lot about definitions. [For example,] most post-op transsexuals are straight!"

Hedwig and the Angry Inch is a show that uses modern sensibilities, the Book of Genesis and Plato's Republic to build its case for a world free of gender stereotype. It's a show that's not to be missed – no matter what your gender identity.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch comes to Open Stage of Harrisburg on April 17 with a Gala Opening Night Party and continues through May 10th for 15 performances only. This is a limited engagement and seating at Open Stage is also limited, so be sure to call The Box at 717-214-ARTS (2787) early to ensure you get a seat. You can also reserve tickets online at www.openstagehbg.com.

Tickets: $30 adults; $24 seniors and students. Open Stage also offers Pay-What-You-Will Performances on Thursdays April 30 & May 7. Student and senior rush tickets go on sale in the Open Stage lobby 15 minutes prior to each performance. Students must have a valid student I.D. and seniors must be over 60 years of age. The number of rush tickets is limited and there are no advance sales.

Open Stage is located on the street level of the Walnut Street Garage in downtown Harrisburg. Open Stage of Harrisburg is a Constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre.

Since Appearing Locally Jason & deMarco Soar

Since appearing in the region at Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, musical wonders Jason & deMarco have come a long way baby – SHOWTIME, LOGO and A&F.

Central Voice caught up with the busy duo in LA.

With the international release of their latest album, "Safe", the pair, as of September a legally married under California law, is now more familiar than ever to music fans around the world. They've been together seven years, with six of those years as a performing duo.

With a step into the mainstream with SAFE, the album features new music and recordings that appear in the controversial SHOWTIME documentary We're All Angels. Known to loyal fans for their beautiful harmonies, uplifting lyrics and empowering messages, the duo took this opportunity to have their voices heard by a new audience, welcomed in by the success of the documentary.

Since appearing on the cover of The Advocate in 2004 at the release of their debut album Spirit Pop, Jason & deMarco have faced opposition from the right-wing organizations for their activism in the GLBT community of faith and their work lobbying for social justice. As artists they have worked hard to clarify that although they are both gay and men of faith, their music is not religious, nor is it gay. Their music has a message and they aim to speak to everyone.

"We want our songs to be uplifting without being preachy," says Jason. 'Our goal has always been to empower people through our music and lyrics." deMarco thinks that those who follow rigid religious strictures may hunger for others to tell them how to think. "They don't do their own homework and leave that to others."

The duo performs over one hundred concerts per year and is continues to support The Trevor Project (www.trevorproject.org), a suicide hotline for questioning youth as well as The Matthew Shepard Foundation, (www.matthewshepard.org).

Marc Robin New Fulton Theatre Artistic Director

Marc Robin is the new Artistic Director of Fulton Theatre. at a morning press conference on Friday, January 23, 2009. Since last October, Robin has served as Interim Artistic Director, stepping in after long-time Artistic Director Michael D. Mitchell succumbed to his battle with cancer.

Over the past nine years, Robin has guest directed and choreographed numerous productions at the Fulton, all of which met with great critical and audience acclaim as well as box office success. Some of his memorable productions include: Crazy for You, Hot Mikado, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Irish... and How They Got That Way, Brigadoon, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Carousel, 42nd Street, and the world premiere of Treasure Island for which he also wrote the music and co-wrote the book and lyrics.

In an address to 80 Fulton supporters Robin said "Our vision is to make the Fulton Theatre an internationally recognized name in the arts while at the same time building its Lancaster support and community relationships. Part of being able to take a theatre global or regional is moving in one direction. But, inherently it moves you away from the place that it started. We feel very strongly to make sure that not only are we trying to advance ourselves in the world of the national and international market, but that we do everything we can to increase our relationships here a t home by extending our community outreach programs, by making sure that we are nurturing local talent, and making sure that we are not only moving this way but this way. It's a pretty fine dance; but being a choreographer, I welcome the challenge to do it."

As a freelance director/choreographer Mr. Robin has staged over 200 productions at theatres across the country including: Marriott's Theatre in Lincolnshire, Illinois, Walnut Street Theatre, Theatre Under The Stars (Houston), Maine State Music Theatre, Carousel Theatre, Ravinia Festival, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, Northlight Theatre, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, Drury Lane Evergreen Park, Beef N Boards, Theatre at the Center, Peninsula Players, Mass Rep, Phoenix Theatre (Arizona), Bucks County Playhouse, Little Theatre on the Square, Circa' 21, Fireside Theatre and Skylight Opera.

He served as the Artistic Director for the OVATIONS series at the Auditorium Theatre where he directed several productions including Strike up the Band (starring Bea Arthur) and Promises, Promises (starring George Hearn). He served as the Artistic Director/Director for the National tour of the Sing Along Wizard of Oz. He was Artistic Director for 13 years at Drury Lane Evergreen Park and a Guest Professor at Northwestern University.

Marc is the recipient of 16 Joseph Jefferson Awards (42 nominations), Chicago; 11 After Dark Awards, Chicago; 3 Ari "Zoni" Awards, Phoenix; Light Opera Works Lifetime Achievement Award, Chicago; and most recently a Barrymore Nominee for his direction of Peter Pan at Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. He is a resident of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Local Churches Affirm Gay Civil Rights

Hawkins

With renewed vigor, faith-based program directors from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and National Black Justice Coalition jointly protest the Vatican's opposition to decriminalize homosexuality.

Internationally advocates also are pushing the US State Department to support decriminalization of homosexuality. See "UN Human Rights Day Declaration", below.

Locally, Pastor Rachel Hackenberg, Grace United Church of Christ, Lancaster, and a Silent Witness PA volunteer, and Rev. Larry Hawkins, pastor, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, PA work to embrace the lgbt community. Both are pastors of "open and affirming" churches. Hawkins stresses that "I am certainly not presenting the "official" Evangelical Lutheran Church in America position on sexuality. Unfortunately, there are many good people in the Lutheran church who think that I am very wrong; and it would be wrong for me not to acknowledge that I am speaking only for myself.

Open and Affirming is the phrase "used by United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations to identify themselves as lgbt allies," says Pastor Hackenberg. She points out that "both gay and straight people alike seek us out as a deliberately inclusive community," perhaps indicating the general population is more aware of the gay civil rights struggle. Historically, fundamentalist Christian churches and organizations held the stage with frequent and vehement anti-gay campaigns. "It's important to our members that our congregation welcomes all people, engages difficult and relevant faith questions, and has socially progressive concerns for others," she explains.

"To me, the fact that we are an "open" congregation means that we reject anything like a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" standard for interpersonal relationships," Hawkins says. "Everyone is welcome to be who they are as a child of God. If that means you are an openly heterosexual person, we will not expect you to hide that fact, nor will we hold it against you."

Hawkins further clarifies by explaining the "to be affirming means that we take God at God's word when at the creation, God looked on what God had made and said, "It is good." We affirm that how God made us, including our sexuality, is good. His congregation performs commitment ceremonies.

By Frank Pizzoli

Hackenberg's church would perform a same-sex commitment ceremony. "Yes, we would, although I have not yet had the wonderful opportunity to conduct a commitment ceremony for a gay or lesbian couple," she says. "It's always a joy for me to talk with couples in preparation for their 'big day,' and I take pride in showing off the church's beautiful sanctuary when couples first visit the church."

With arguments for and against same-sex marriage all over the biblical map, Hackenberg stresses that her faith "points me toward inclusivity." Her concerns reflect recent national media coverage. In a recent cover story the national news magazine questioned the biblical prohibition against same-sex marriage. Recently, The Advocate asked on its cover "Is Gay the New Black." (See "What's It All about Alfie?," see above.)

Why act inclusively?

"It's the heart of what I believe about God and what I understand to be the church's purpose. I believe that the church is called to be a place of grace and hospitality, within and beyond our church walls. It's important to me as the pastor of an open and affirming congregation and as a straight ally to participate in efforts of lgbt advocacy and support within the community," Hackenberg says.

"I've been very gratified and glad for the opportunity to volunteer for Silent Witness PA, an organization that provides visual, colorful (rainbow umbrellas) support and a physical 'non-confrontational buffer' at lgbt-friendly events." (www.silentwitnesspa.org)

Hawkins says that when he points to a specific article of faith, it is the second article of the Apostles creed, which deals with belief in Jesus, the Son of God. "For all of our history, Lutherans have said that some parts of the Bible are more instructive in matters of faith than others. For me, that means that if I read anything in the Bible that is not in concord with the God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, I need to wrestle with that text until it does harmonize with the living witness of Jesus of Nazareth. The traditional texts that have been used to condemn lgbt children of God are texts that I believe need to be wrestled with."

Hackenberg

When Hackenberg reads the bible in its entirety, not just certain passages, she sees "a God who is always going out of the way and beyond society's norms to draw people in, to include those who have been left out. And I do mean the whole bible, not a so-called 'salad bar' sampling, which often the accusation is thrown at socially progressive Christians." What's the prevailing biblical message? "Love. Not love of specific genders. Love of a specific nature, shared between all kinds of people, all kinds of relationships, all kinds of families, and shared most of all by God," Hackenberg concludes.

Many church organizations hold to a "hate the sin, love the sinner" commandment that irks gay people as a patronizing position meaning they're flawed. Although gay people may recognize "sin" in their world and in their lives, their sexuality and the expression of it are not intrinsically sinful or bad. For example, being a lesbian or a gay man in and of itself is not a sin, although a lesbian or gay man who cheats on her or his partner may be sinning.

Hackenberg feels that Christianity has done some serious damage in its disapproval and degradation of lgbt persons. "'Love the sinner, hate the sin' does not disguise the fact that many churches express their 'love' for lgbt persons in hurtful and unloving ways. I really wish Christians would stop using that phrase. In addition to the injury to gay people, 'love the sinner, hate the sin' also assumes that any of us can leave our sexuality at the door...or our relationships, or our lives' stresses, or our varied abilities, or our personal circumstances. We bring our whole selves to God. We should be able to bring our whole selves to church!" she stresses.

Grace United Church of Christ, Lancaster, offers Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m with education programs for all ages beforehand at 9 a.m.www.gracechurchlancaster.org.

St Michael's offers Christian Education for all ages 8:45 a.m.; Sunday Services of Word and Sacrament 10 a.m.; Fellowship follows 11:15 a.m. http://home.paonline.com/stmike/index.html

"What's It All about Alfie?"
Newsweek's recent cover story questioned a Biblical prohibition against same-sex marriage www.newsweek.com/id/172653 and video. newsweek.com/#?t=4122447001&l=2269776001)
The Advocate in a recent cover story asked
"Is Gay the New Black?"
(advocate.com/exclusive_detail_ektid65744.asp and advocate.com/video.asp)

UN Human Rights Day Declaration

Advocates also are pushing the US State Department to support decriminalization of homosexuality. The following joint statement was issued on United Nations Human Rights Day and the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"For far too long people around the world have been ostracized, imprisoned, tortured and denied basic rights to housing, health care and employment simply because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). In more than 70 countries people can be imprisoned for homosexuality and in several countries it is a crime punishable by death.

"This is why the French government, backed by 27 European Union nations, put forward a proposal, on Human Rights Day to recognize that LGBT rights are human rights and to decriminalize homosexuality. Such a statement simply affirms the most basic of rights for LGBT people: that they be allowed to live in dignity and safety. As faith leaders who work every day with LGBT people who feel the stigma of discrimination, this U.N. initiative speaks to our core belief that we show our love for God when we care for our neighbors, particularly those who are shunned and marginalized.

"As faith leaders we were shocked by Vatican opposition to this proposed initiative. By refusing to sign a basic statement opposing inhumane treatment of LGBT people, the Vatican is sending a message that violence and human rights abuses against LGBT people are acceptable. Most Catholics, and indeed most Catholic teachings, tell us that all people are entitled to live with basic human dignity without the threat of violence. The Catholics we know believe that Scripture asks us to be our brother and our sister's keeper.

Many are speaking out against this immoral stance in the name of religion.

"Compounding the Vatican's opposition is the inaction to date of the government of the United States. As faith leaders and citizens of the United States, we call on the U.S. government to join the 50 countries throughout the world that have officially supported this U.N. proposal.

"We urge U.S. leaders to stand against discrimination. It is time to let the teachings of the world's great religions guide us toward justice rather that encouraging prejudice, fear and violence. It is time for the U.S. to stand as a moral leader for LGBT people and to help create a more just world for all of us."

Statement by the Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Institute for Welcoming Resources and faith work director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Harry Knox, director of Religion and Faith Program of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation; Ann Craig, director of Religion, Faith and Values Program of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; and Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., director of Religious Affairs of the National Black Justice Coalition.

Four Legislators Introduce Bills to Green the Keystone

Representative Greg Vitali (D-Delaware), Representative Chris Ross (R-Chester), Senator Edwin (Ted) Erickson (R-Chester and Delaware), and Representative Eugene DePasquale (D-York) have introduced bipartisan legislation in both houses of the General Assembly to strengthen and expand Pennsylvania's clean energy requirements.

The legislation will extend to 2026 Pennsylvania's landmark Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) law, which requires all electricity suppliers to provide increasing amounts of electricity from clean sources, like solar and wind power. The bill also substantially boosts those requirements. The bill also requires Pennsylvania to develop an underground carbon sequestration network to capture and store global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

"The 2004 AEPS law has helped make Pennsylvania a national leader in renewable energy production, investment and jobs," said Jan Jarrett, PennFuture. "This bill will bolster our position. We will lengthen our stride in the development of wind energy, and we will become a major player in solar energy. Passage of this bill will guarantee that Pennsylvania will remain a major national and international player in renewable energy, creating thousands of jobs and sending a strong, long-term market signal for new investment."

your voice

"PennFuture played the leading role among public interest organizations in the passage of the AEPS, last summer's passage of the $650 million energy funding bill, last fall's passage of a landmark energy savings bill, and many other vital bills," says Jarrett. "We take a back seat to no one in building a clean energy future and tackling the extraordinary demands of global warming.

"But we are also realists, as evidenced by our ability to lead and help pass the bills I just mentioned," says Jarrett. The organization believes, along with major national environmental groups such as Environmental Defense, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Union of Concerned Scientists, that adding renewable energy and reducing energy demand, which we spend much of our time advocating, are probably not enough to achieve the necessary pollution reductions to solve global warming. Since coal is one of the world's most abundant energy resources, and its use is growing rapidly in developing nations such as China and India, carbon capture and sequestration at coal plants must be part of the toolbox, if we are to slow global warming.

"Pennsylvania is uniquely positioned to bring this new technology to scale and be both a national and international leader in its development and deployment," says Jarrett. "Our nation and our world need these technologies to succeed, while at the same time we work aggressively to change how we make and use energy."

Green Groups Oppose Energy Bill's Focus on Coal

Four of Pennsylvania's largest environmental groups are opposed to legislation which would require the state to generate three percent of its electricity from power plants equipped with carbon capture and sequestration technology. The technology does not yet exist in commercial form and is expensive says PennEnvironment, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, Clean Air Council and Clean Water Action.

"This legislation represents a dangerous case of putting a very expensive cart before the horse for Pennsylvania," says Nathan Willcox, Energy & Clean Air Advocate with PennEnvironment.

"Requiring a portion of the state's electricity to come from carbon capture and sequestration facilities before such technology even exists in commercial form is a waste of state resources, and distracts us from the proven clean energy solutions that deserve the state's support."

"This bill requires the Commonwealth to assume all liability for geologic carbon storage, including environmental and private property damage, as well as fatalities, in the event of a facility failure," said Jeff Schmidt, Director of the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter. "Given the scientific uncertainties of geological sequestration, and the failure to provide a transparent site characterization process, these liability provisions represent an unacceptable threat to Pennsylvania."

your voice

"The legislation proposes that Pennsylvania assume liability for any problems associated with this unproven technology. That is a raw deal for Pennsylvania taxpayers," says Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director of the Clean Air Council. "If taxpayers are going to subsidize energy projection, let's make it for wind and solar energy."

"If coal companies aren't even sure this technology is viable, why are we promoting it? We know how to stop global warming—we should focus on proven strategies that work," stated Myron Arnowitt, Pennsylvania State Director for Clean Water Action.

The groups point to two fatal flaws in the legislation's focus on carbon capture and sequestration (CCS): the tremendous uncertainties around the feasibility and cost of CCS, and the diversion of resources from proven clean energy solutions like energy efficiency, and wind and solar power.

The laudable goal of CCS systems is to capture global warming pollution produced by power plants before it escapes into the atmosphere, and then store this pollution underground permanently. Coal-fired power plants are the top source of global warming pollution in Pennsylvania, and across the country.

Unfortunately, most experts agree that CCS is far from market-ready, and the costs associated with making it market-ready are uncertain. There are no coal plants that capture and store their carbon dioxide pollution in operation in the United States, and even coal utility executives have expressed pessimism about the technology's prospects.

Jim Rogers, Duke Energy's CEO, said in June of last year, "CCS as a magical technology that solves the carbon problem for coal plants is oversold…I think there is a lot to learn, and it is going to take us a lot longer for us to figure it out than a lot of us think." With regard to cost, studies out of MIT and the Western Governors Association found that CCS could increase the costs of electricity from coal by over 60 percent.

"No one is saying that utilities and the government should abandon research on CCS technologies," said Willcox. "But to require that a portion of the state's electricity come from CCS before it is commercially viable and its many uncertainties have been addressed seems dangerously misguided."

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Through March 26 - Invitational Exhibition featuring photography by Ron Barrick and R.Neil Gruber, oils by John T.Meehan III and George Strasburger.

April 3-May 7 - The Return of the Seven Lively Artists Exhibition, with works by 18 area artists.

Starting April 13 - Spring Semester Art Classes for Youth and Adults. (Visit website to view schedule.) Art Association of Harrisburg, 21 N.Front St., Harrisburg.

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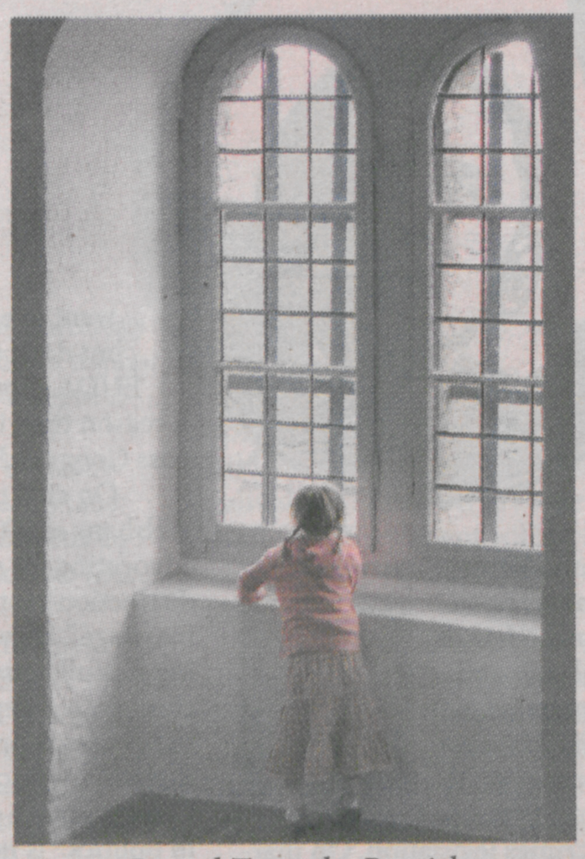

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THE GAY AGENDA

continued from page 1

for change, what is a realistic approach to achieving some, if not all, civil rights goals?

Martin

Ted Martin, newly installed board president, LGBT Community Center Coalition, says "We need to hold Obama to a higher standard and be picky on giving him all our love too fast." He advises the community "to praise Obama when he talks about gay issues openly and with confidence."

DADT is a disaster says Martin and he hopes the policy is gone within a year as well as passage of an inclusive ENDA. Under political pressure, previous unsuccessful measures "dropped transgender" as a nod to politicians uncomfortable with the issue. Martin warns "the victory will be cheapened beyond belief and be a stain on our community if we let this happen again."

> "...Pennsylvania is never in their reports"
>
> -Alanna Berger

Perhaps the community must act savvier than before. "We shoot ourselves in the foot when we don't work with elected officials to prioritize and then give them cover when they don't do everything at once," Martin observes. Regionally, Martin looks to the LGBT Community Center Coalition, Silent Witnesses, and openly-gay Harrisburg city councilman Dan Miller. "They're on frontlines and experience things most people never do."

Miller

Fired years ago for being gay by Camp Hill's Donald DeMuth & Associates, Harrisburg city councilman Dan Miller favors "a comprehensive ENDA." His firing saga ended up on the cover the New Yorker magazine. Miller knows all issues are important and should be addressed "but everyone has to be able to work and live freely in order to begin to have equality."

"ENDA impacts more people and deals with more basic rights. Not everyone is in or desires to be in a relationship. All those in a relationship may not want to get married," Miller observes. Marriage is strictly a civil issue for Miller. "Churches and organized religion are free to determine for themselves how they want to handle personal relationships and I support their right to do so." Recently, Miller successfully spearheaded passage of Harrisburg's couples registry through which straight and gay couples legally "register" thereby gaining access to workplace benefits.

Gay individuals are "currently treated as unequal or second class citizens. The notion that lgbt citizens and taxpayers are a 'special interest' seems incorrect. The goal is one of equality. Nothing more," Miller says. Movements don't necessarily occur in logic patterns and are often uncontrollable. "It's probably important to accept that our movement towards equal rights will occur in both planned and unplanned ways."

Silent Witness activist Alanna Berger, a straight ally, thinks that all Obama's open letter items "are important, yet only a few of them" apply to everyone. "Not all gays and lesbians want to get married, not all are in the army." HIV is an issue that all Americans should care about" Berger's priorities are ENDA and hate crimes legislation. On marriage, she says "All couples should have legal civil unions and churches should confer the sacrament of marriage."

Berger

Regarding swift or incremental change, Berger says "Did African Americans ask for one thing at a time? If all issues are on the table, a more accurate picture of discrimination is portrayed." For her ration of information, Berger relies on many national organizations. "And I'm frequently frustrated that Pennsylvania is never in their reports."

Eva O'Diam, recent former pastor of Metropolitan Community Church, Harrisburg says "the most important issue is ENDA. Equally important is fighting HIV." O'Diam believes "whatever we go for, we go for together and refuse to settle for less than full, equal treatment of the entire community. I do not want us to settle for less. I am not in favor of incremental changes." Locally, she looks to MCC of the Spirit, Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, and Stonewall Democrats for information and guidance.

O'Diam

Turner

Ben Turner, co-founder and former co-chair (2004-06) of Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, thinks state and federal ENDA passage "would benefit the largest number". Other issues are important "but not everyone wants to get married or join the military." "Ending job discrimination may be the tipping point for progress on other issues. More people could come out without fear of job loss," Turner says. Polls indicate workplace protections enjoy strong support in Pennsylvania and nationwide.

"I think it helps to have a list of issues needing action while realizing we might not get all the civil rights we deserve at once," Turner says. Locally, he follows Stonewall Democrats, Equality Advocates PA, and PA American Civil Liberties Union.

Current Capital Region Stonewall Democrats president Jeff Welshans thinks ENDA provides the building block for many other issues. "There's lots of gay people who want to advocate for other issues, but don't because they fear job loss. ENDA should come first if for no other reason than it should be the easiest to pass Congress," Welshans says.

Welshans

On civil unions versus marriage, Welshans say "One has nothing to do with the other. When advocating for same-sex marriage, we need to make the distinction that we're asking for civil marriage, not religious marriage." He wants to see the community "continue pushing for full equality while simultaneously being pragmatic enough to accept incremental changes but never stopping the demand for full rights. For information, he looks to Equality Advocates PA and hopes Capital Region Stonewall Democrats are seen a local leaders. "I don't get involved in politics." is no longer an acceptable position. We need everyone pressuring elected officials to vote for our civil rights. If they don't, we need to replace them," Welshans says.

King

Greg King, Winter Arts Festival organizer, believes in incremental change but with a caveat. "While I think we need an incremental strategy, I also think we need a multifaceted plan of attack from all sides at once," Kings says. He calls for an ACT Up-style group that disturbs the peace and demands action. "We need radicals that make the news and out the bigots in our government who hide in closets and have sex in airport restrooms while working against our rights."

King also values peaceful protests like Washington marches, Join The Impact, and candlelight vigils. "Mass peaceful demonstrations show our size as a community, like the Verizon crowd standing behind their spokesman." We also need groups like the Log Cabin Republicans, King says, who allow the community to meet the opposition on its own turf.

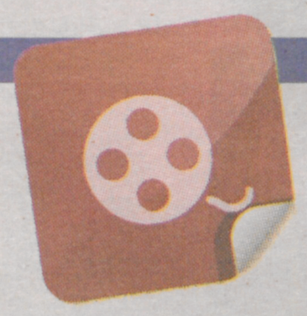
Attorney Leo Dunn says "the single most important issue is repeal of DOMA and its replacement recognition of same-sex couples for all federal legal purposes. "If same-sex couples were recognized, whether in marriage, civil unions, or by a federal IRS registry, arguments for DADT, against hate crime legislation, would be undercut to irrelevance," Dunn says.

> "Fairness is good business"
>
> -Russ Boggs

The community like all diverse populations "reduces its political effectiveness because it is not able to agree on a list of priorities," Dunn observes. Although this can be viewed as a weakness, "it really shows that our community is a smaller version of American society."

Dunn

Dunn doesn't look for guidance from gay civil rights organizations. "Individual gay citizens need to take responsibility for thinking and acting for themselves. One of the major problems with our current culture is lack of personal responsibility and individual thought – regardless of topic." Individuals should look at all informa-



See LOGO's Obama on Gay Marriage at: thecentralvoice.ning.com

tion, consider what they think is right, and act accordingly within lawful limits, "though there are certain times the law needs "stretched" by well-thought out civil disobedience," Dunn says.

Blaise W. Liffick, Silent Witness PA, was "reluctant to answer." He's known as a straight ally and was initially uncomfortable responding not being "affected directly by any decisions made by the Obama administration on these issues."

History helps Liffick. "Parallels between the gay community and African Americans is an obvious choice," citing Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech: "We have come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism." Leffick suggests an "all or nothing" approach, not piecemeal attempts.

"African-Americans don't have to come out of the closet to be recognized," Lefflick further posits. "Many lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, and transgender individuals are afraid to come out to families, employers, landlords. They're not willing to be publicly associated with anything related to their own community," Liffick says.

Setting the proper tone in business circles is difficult, where "diversity" often does not include the lgbt community.

Russ Boggs, president of the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, says his newly-formed group "is in support of an inclusive ENDA. "It is currently legal under federal law for an employer to fire, punish, or refuse to hire an employee on the basis of sexual orientation or transgender status. State and local governments are free to enact their own laws regarding discrimination, but without a federal law, lgbt workers are subject to a patchwork quilt of local protections," he says. Twenty states have enacted workplace protections based on sexual orientation, and twelve protect gender identity in employment.

Boggs

The overwhelming majority of America's leading businesses have already started addressing workplace fairness for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees. "But we still need a federal standard that treats all employees the same. Fairness is good business," Boggs notes.

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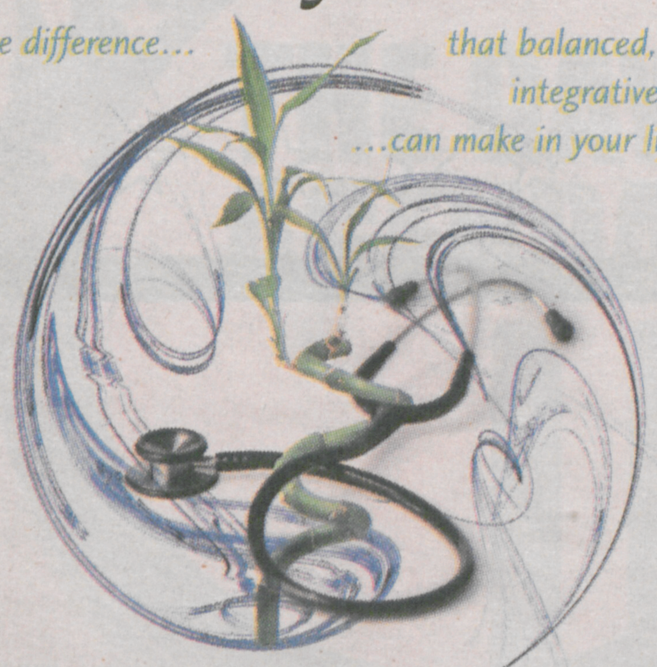

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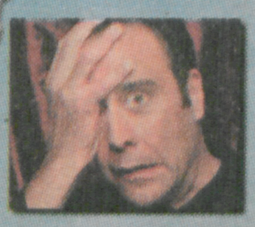

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63 Attend Annual Chamber Meeting

Sixty-three members and guests of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce met at Hollywood Casino Jan. 28 for the organization's 2nd Annual Meeting. A new governing board of directors was selected by a vote of the membership.

Board members are Russell A. Boggs, David A. Zwifka, Executive Director, Neighborhood Dispute Settlement; Deborah Bixler, Lifestyle & Business Coach; Frank D. Carano, DDS, AGDF, Dentist; Shannon R. Shupp, Financial Planner; Deborah Gable, Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania (PPCP); Michael D. Harris Jr, Ardynn Media; William N. Krenz, EDS; Debra L. McClain, Certified Insurance Service Representative. Info: 717-213-5034; www.cpglcc.org.

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Patty Kim Announces Re-Election Bid

Harrisburg City Councilwoman Patty Kim announced her intention to run for a second city council term today. She will seek the nomination of the Democratic Party in the May 19, 2009 primary election.

Kim voted in favor of establishing the city's Couples Registry which allows unmarried gay and straight couples to document their relationship for benefit and other purposes.

"I am very grateful the people of Harrisburg gave me the opportunity to be a voice for them as a member of city council these last few years. We have had to meet many challenges together and I have drawn strength from the people's resolve and creativity. Because of what I know of them, I believe the city's future is bright. I also believe the challenges of the present time will require more from the city's current and aspiring political leaders. We will need to raise our game.

"We need to be totally transparent in everything we do. We need to be civil in our words and decent in our actions. We need to be continuously improving the delivery of safe and clean streets. We need to be relentlessly focused on increasing the commercial tax base that pays for those services. We need to be reaching out to better integrate the people with their government. We need to the make sure our legacy is about what we built together and not what we tore apart.

"This is why I am running for a second term. I commit myself to all these things. I believe in them because I have seen them work. I am proud in my first term to have worked with residents, neighborhood groups, churches, my council colleagues, the administration and anybody who had an idea to push Harrisburg further. I am proud to have played a role in Harrisburg Authority reform, responsible budgets, a new County Housing Court, an expanded noise ordinance and youth curfew. We created a Life Partner Registry, powerful summer youth programs and a successful gun buy-back. And finally, once and for all, we are going to tackle bulk trash pick-up! This is what we built together. I want to keep building.

"In the coming months I will be walking up and down Harrisburg, asking for support from as many people as possible. I have put together a website, pattykim.com, where people can learn about this campaign and join it if they wish. I am excited to be seeking a second term and excited about what Harrisburg's future holds."

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Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League

The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle

c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Pride Festival of Central PA Spring Fund Raising Events

Pride Festival of Central PA recently announced their line up of Spring fund raising events. In addition to drag shows, there will be a return of the Pride Breakfast. This year's breakfast will be Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9 AM to 11 AM at Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located at 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg. Mark Smith, 2009 Parade Chair, reports that the Pride Breakfast will be a time when community groups can pick up an application to participate in the 2009 Central PA PrideFest Unity Parade as well as the festival. It will also be a time when the community can meet the Pride Festival Board of Directors, ask questions about this year's festival, and volunteer to assist both the parade and festival committees with their activities on the day of the event, Saturday, July 25, 2009.

The Pride Festival of Central PA Board of Directors reports that both vendor and parade applications are currently available for download from the recently updated Pride website, www.harrisburgpride.org. The new website design reflects the this year's theme "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights: Stonewall Rebellion 40th Anniversary." Smith reports that by making applications available both online and at the Pride Breakfast in April, the board hopes many community businesses and organizations, especially the non-profit organizations will take advantage of the opportunity to register early and receive a discounted rate for parade entry fees. Smith went on to say that there will be two fund raisers in May in which Pride will collect completed applications. Dine Out with Pride will occur on May 12, 2009 and a Pride Mixer will occur on May 30, 2009 at Liquid 891.

Back row: Justin Bacon, Mark Smith, Donald Anklam. Front row: Tammy Cassel, Jeffrey Clouser, Dale Schauer, Alanna Berger, Yvonne Small. Missing from photo: Diana Kuhns.

Dame Glenda is again assisting Pride Festival of Central PA by raising funds through drag shows at various community establishments. This year's Pride Drag Show schedule is as follows:

March 13, 2009 at Liquid
April 3, 2009 at Dawg Haus
April 4, 2009 at Club Z
April 10, 2009 at Club XS
April 18, 2009 at CC's
May 9, 2009 at Brownstone
May 16, 2009 at Twin Peaks
May 17, 2009 at Tally Ho
June 6, 2009 at Tap Room
June 12, 2009 at Liquid 891 (Mr. Pride competition)
June 20, 2009 at Strawberry

All shows begin at 10 pm except the Mr. Pride competition which will begin at 8 PM. The Pride Festival of Central PA will be selling souvenir T-shirts at all drag shows and fund raising events. Pride Festival of Central PA hopes its Spring fund raisers will bring in revenue to help offset the costs of producing this year's festival weekend. A portion of the proceeds of this year's festival will be donated to the Easch-Potter Scholarship. This scholarship fund had been established under the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (GLSH) for the purpose of providing scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth. After several years of inactivity, the Scholarship is now under the direction of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC). All endowment funds of the Foundation are required to have at least $10,000 in assets before they can be self-sustaining and begin to make distributions as designated by their governing body, in this instance Common Roads and the LGBT Center Coalition.

The Pride Festival of Central PA can be contacted at: PO Box 12083, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2083, by phone: 717-801-1830 or by e-mail at info@harrisburgpride.org. Please be sure to visit our website at www.harrisburgpride.org. Donations of any amount are truly appreciated.

Health Care Association Applauds Bob Casey

The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) praised U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) recently for introducing the Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act of 2009, comprehensive legislation that addresses the severe shortage of health-care workers who are adequately trained and prepared to care for older Americans.

"On behalf of the 80,000 frail, elderly and disabled Pennsylvanians we care for each day, we commend Senator Casey for offering strategies to resolve the existing and projected shortages of the essential health-care personnel who provide the life-sustaining care to these most vulnerable populations on a daily basis," stated Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., President and CEO of PHCA.

"The continued success of our profession's quality improvement initiatives is contingent upon a stable supply of well-trained workers." This bicameral legislation, co-sponsored by U.S. Sens. Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), addresses the looming shortage of essential health-care personal, incorporating major recommendations for improving and expanding the skills and preparedness of the health-care work force by aiming to expand education and training opportunities in geriatrics and long-term care for licensed health professionals and direct-care workers.

A recent Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, "Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Healthcare Workforce," concluded that there is an urgent need to prepare the health-care work force to better serve the aging population. The study found less than 1 percent of all nurses are certified gerontology nurses, even as the population of older people is on track to double by 2030.

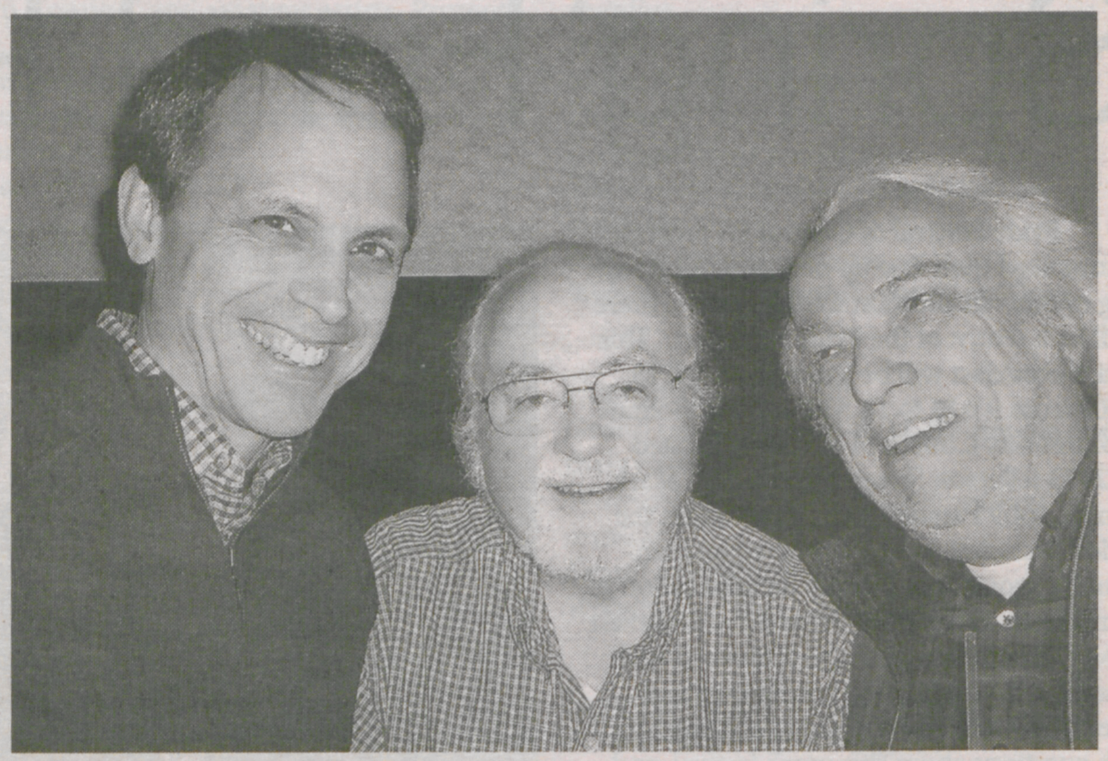
continued on page 22

The Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a seminar on use of the Internet by Ardynn Media. From left, chamber president Russ Boggs, Deb Bixler, Terri McEntee, and Michael Harris.

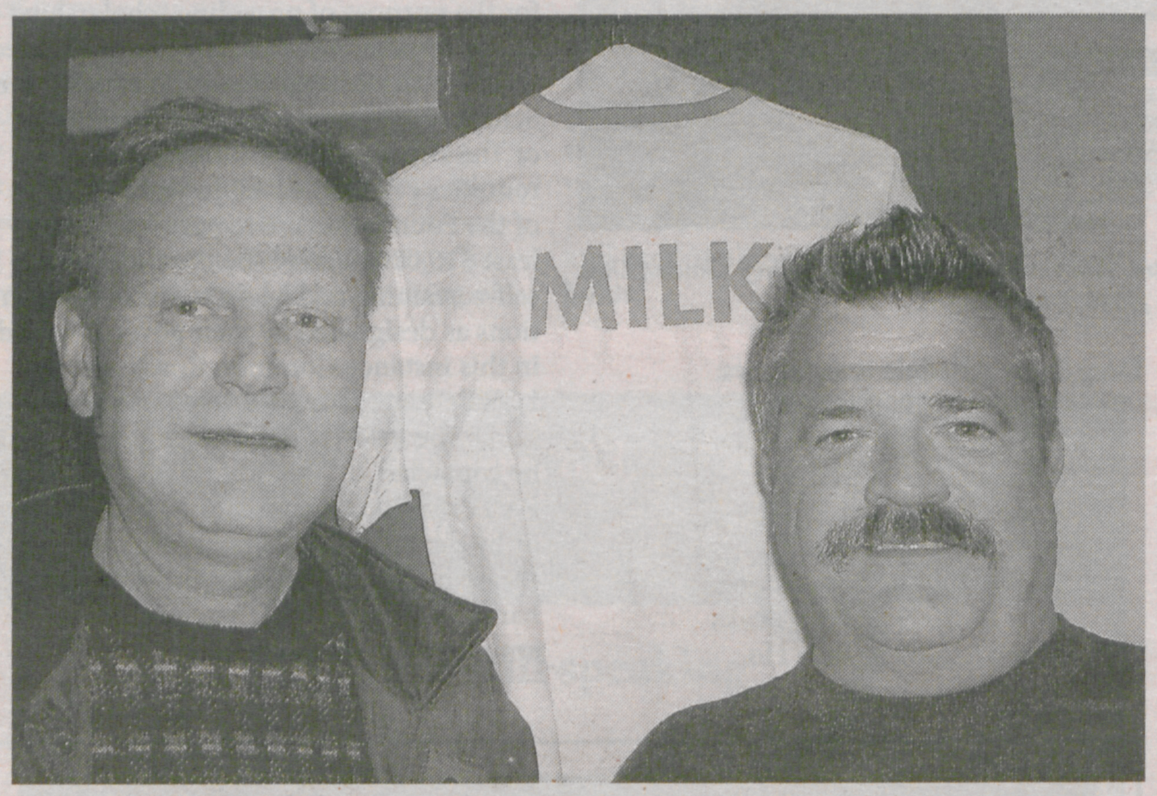
Got Milk

Harrisburg city councilman Dan Miller hosted a full-house special screening of "Milk" at Midtown Cinema.

Kia Hansard, city council members Dan Miller and Gloria Martin-Roberts.



Carl Bechdel, and David Frost and his partner David hovel who were recently married in CA.



David Leas, Black & White board member, and Roxy's George Amspacher

Wayne Noss and Ron Maynard.

Youths Disregard Virginity Pledges

According to Harvard University interviews, 52% of the youths who take virginity pledges have sex within a year. One pro-abstinence group disputes the findings.

Virginity pledges, in which young people vow to abstain from sex until marriage, have little staying power among those who take them, the Harvard study has found. More than half of the adolescents who make the signed public promises give up on their pledges within a year, according to the study released last week.

It is the only government-sponsored study that asks about virginity pledges. The 14,000 survey subjects were interviewed in 1995 and re-interviewed in 1996 and 2001. They ranged in age from 12 to 18 and came from across the country.

The findings have raised the ire of Concerned Women for America, a prominent conservative organization that advocates adolescent sexual abstinence. "The Harvard report is wrong," said Janice Crouse, a fellow at a Concerned Women for America think tank. "This study is in direct contradiction with trends we have been seeing in recent years," Crouse said. "Those who make virginity pledges have shown greater resolve to save sex for marriage."

Virginity pledges were introduced in the early 1990s as part of the Christian Sex Education Project. Their adult champions hail the promises, which rest solely on the individual's word, as being a major step toward reducing teen pregnancy and raising moral values.

By some estimates, at least 2.5 million adolescents around the world have publicly vowed to postpone sex until marriage. They include virgins, as well as those who have had sexual experiences but who swear to refrain from further activity. Many wear rings or other jewelry to symbolize their pledge.

Health Care con'td

According to the American Health Care Association's recently released Nursing Position Vacancy and Turnover Study, nearly 110,000 health-care personnel full-time equivalents were needed nationwide to fill vacant nursing positions. Of those vacancies, the study found, approximately 19,400 were for registered nurses and 24,200 for licensed practical nurses, while the significant majority was for certified nurse assistants - nearly 60,300 open positions.

"The policies in Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging American Act of 2009 are extremely timely and relevant give that health care is one of the few business sectors where employment is increasing during this economic uncertainty," Dr. Shapiro concluded. "This thoughtful legislation takes important steps in addressing Pennsylvania's health-care work force recruitment and retention challenges."

Info: 717-221-1800; www.phca.org.

Jo Ann Neal

Black History Exhibit at Reservoir Mansion

Danny Houston

The Art Association of Harrisburg, in conjunction with the city of Harrisburg, presents the 17th Annual Black history Exhibit until March 31 at Reservoir Mansion, 100 Concert Drive. Citizens Bank is the show's corporate sponsor. Featured artists are Danny Houston and Jo Ann Neal, who creates Afro-Centric collages and paintings. A native of Harrisburg, Jo Ann has become a prolific artist despite debilitating arthritis. Her joyful, colorful paintings and mixed media works depict African people and masks, as well as geometric and whimsical designs. In addition to her paintings on canvas and works on paper, Jo Ann applies her designs to greeting cards and treasure boxes. She has exhibited her work in numeroua AAH exhibitions, and One Night Stand Exhibitions.

Danny Houston is truly a "citizen of the world," having traveled extensively and having taken fascinating photographs wherever he goes. on his exotic travels since he was 18. His photos are filled with vibrant colors and intriguing subject matter, giving his viewers the opportunity to experience the cultures of the indigenous peoples he visits. Danny has traveled throughout southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, artwork by students of the Harrisburg School District will be exhibited in the second-floor gallery of the Mansion, including photos by the students who participated in the camp conducted by Harrisburg Camera Club.

Info: 236-1432 or Reservoir Park Mansion 233-7403 for details on gallery hours and directions.

Theatre Harrisburg April Dates

Theatre Harrisburg presents "The Shadow Box" by Michael Cristofer. This extraordinary and triumphant drama takes place in a hospice setting where three terminal cancer patients attempt to come to terms with their anxieties, the finality of their condition and their families and loved ones. Often as funny as it is moving, this is a play about our shared fears of the end of life and our uncertainty regarding the mystery in store beyond it. Winner 1977 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award. Presented Uptown at The Jay & Nancy Krevsky Production Center. April 17, 18, 24, 25 - 8 p.m., April 23 - 7:30 p.m.; April 19, 26 - 2 p.m. Tickets at The BOX, 214-ARTS.

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theatreharrisburg.com

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Karey Maurice Counts Remembers Keith Haring

In an exclusive piece for Central Voice, artist Karey Maurice Counts tells readers in his own recollections his experiences of being mentored by Keith Haring.

80s Art Scene

"What I remember about this particular time was that I had just graduated from High School and my interest was more about fashion until I read about what was happening in New York City through magazines like GQ,Interview, Paper Mag and the Village Voice."

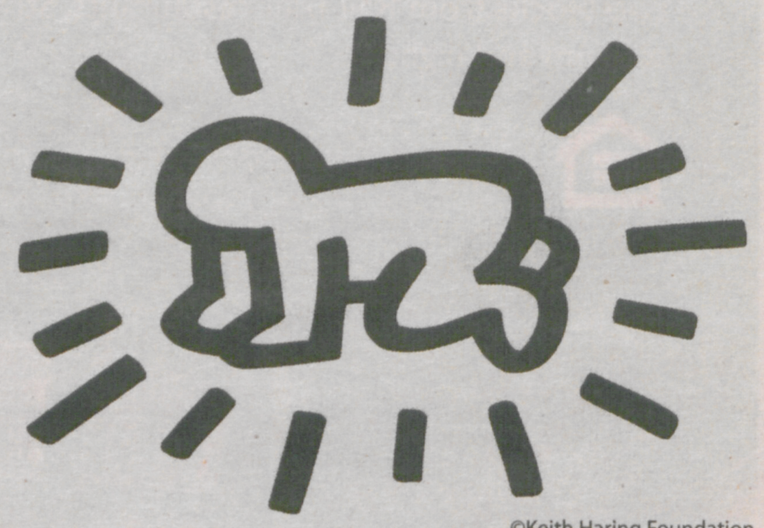
©Keith Haring Foundation

"In these articles, I read about the downtown art scene and that artists were curating exhibitions anywhere they could and nightclubs were very receptive towards these kind of shows. I soon began making visits to these clubs at night when I had enough money and I also started to explore galleries in the East Village and Soho to check out the artwork of artist that were featured in the publications I was reading.

"At first these artists seemed to be making art for their own personal reasons. Then Wall Street investors began to buy art just for the pure sake of investment, and that's when it became extremely competitive and a mad dash to become the richest or the most famous artist was infused into the scene. I tried to switch gears as fast as possible so I could get involved with what seemed at the time a sure thing to establish a career and get paid for your work.

Communal

"Fluid is a great word when you try to explain how communal the scene was. As long you hung out with the right people at the right club, you had the feeling of being next in line for "The Price is Right" or the next gallery stable call. I did the right club thing but I was really living in the moment and was too young to understand networking.



©Keith Haring Foundation

Warhol

"I love telling this story. My original plan was to meet Andy Warhol because I was really tracking his activities through the media and how he was hanging out with the very same artists who were beginning to become famous – Haring, Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Kenny Scharf and Jean-Michel Basquiat, of course, but there were others. On the day Andy died I thought my dream was over because I wanted him to help me like he helped the other artist. He seemed to be the reason for everyone's interest at the time because he was hanging out again after a quiet period and he represented business and making money.

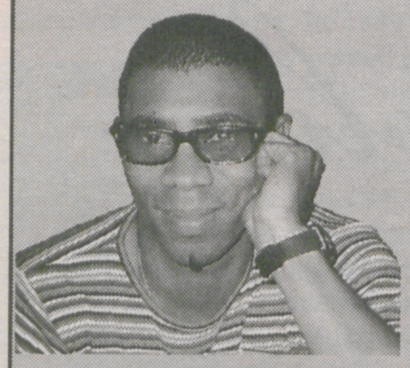
Pop Shop

"I got invited to be in a photo shoot by one of the employees who worked at

continued on page 27

Kutztown Native Keith Haring Honored with Biopic

"The Universe of Keith Haring" directed by Christina Clausen



Karey Maurice Counts

By Karey Maurice Counts

The film documents the career of one of the most efficient producers of contemporary art anyone has known since Picasso who hold the Guinness Book of World records title for producing the most artifacts by a single artist.

While Picasso's career as an artist lasted several decades, the production was consistent and steady over a period of time, where as Keith Haring's career was quite the opposite, it only lasted ten years and friend Jean-Michel Basquiat even shorter than that just breaking the lucky seven benchmark.

This is a very poignant point to this film because once you know this fact you can begin to understand the time in which these two artists lived and produced a phenomenal amount of work before succumbing to their very own personal, but yet publicly displayed passions of sex and drugs. Given the situation at hand Keith chose to live his life on a high level of activism and he touched on subjects that no one had the balls to confront but clearly recognized when seeing such subjects in his work.

As Keith became more comfortable with his homosexuality and the threat of contracting AIDS he produced numerous works of art dedicated to the fight against HIV and related social causes that affected the gay community as well as other human rights issues at large.

The movie captures personal recollections of the artist from his family and friends such as Yoko Ono, Fab Five Freddy, Kenny Scharf and art dealer Tony Shafrazi who states that he had to ask Keith to show his work instead of the normal way an artist looks for a gallery to show their work.

I had the pleasure to Interview the director Christina Clausen and during my forty minute conversation with her she mentions to me how Keith's work was really a bit ahead of its time illustrating the talking heads in computer screens and people being zapped by digital signals coming from outer space, women's vaginas, men's penises or sometimes space ships commanding them to dance.

This truly reminds us of the internet we use today to communicate with one another and finding ourselves short on words these days when we pass a stranger on the street while we are busy on our cellular phones having a complete conversation with someone miles away.

When I asked Mrs. Clausen about the making of the film and who she targeted as an audience she told me that she didn't just want to make an art society documentary only a certain selection of the population would be interested in, but a film that everyone could enjoy just like how Keith Haring wanted his art to be experienced.

This February marks nineteen years since the artist death due to AIDS related illness but his spirit lives on through the art he created for us all to enjoy and appreciate.

The Universe of Keith Haring is a jewel of a film that will quickly touch your soul and become a platform to express you own passion.

Karey Maurice Counts, who originally published this article in "Out IN Jersey," is an artist who was mentored by Keith Haring and founder of redballoon-studio.com where you can contact him for more information.

DVD Release Arts Alliance America.

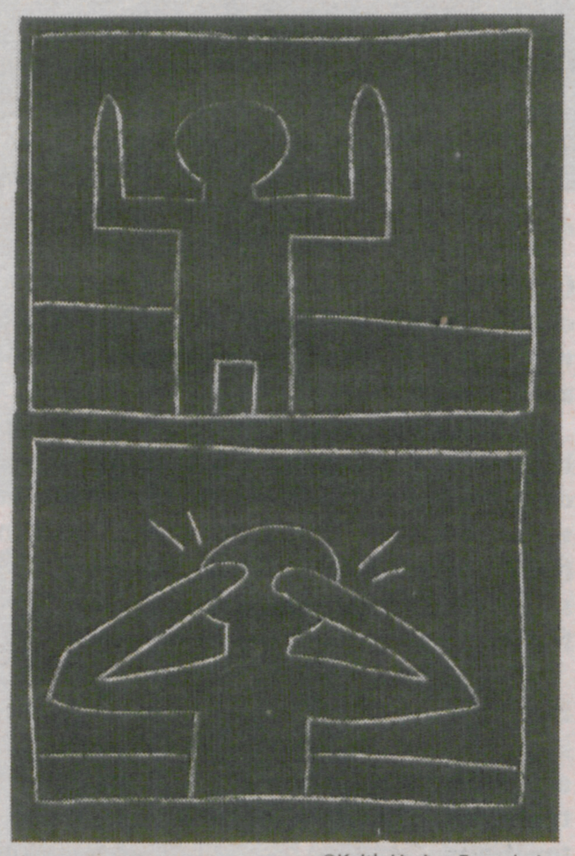
Haring con'td

the Pop Shop who was about to drop a 45" inch single called "Crack is Wack". He suggested I show up because Keith might be there and that I should show him my artwork. The day I met Keith we were on site at the location of the photo shoot and he rode his bike right up to me and asked me for some of my beer that I was drinking and I handed him the bottle. We did the photo shoot and after that I showed him some of my work and he invited me to the studio.

Haring Studio

"During the time in which I met Keith, a typical day was busy, busy, busy. That guy was incredible and he really taught me how to not waste time. There was always something going on at the studio. I'm glad that I was there during these times. It was really special because we could really talk about stuff. Because Keith trusted me, I became a runner for the Pop Shop and deliver merchandise to and for celebrities. I remember going to the bank with him to make these huge deposits of, like, $10,000 at one time.

"The funniest thing that happened while I was there involved designer Jean Paul Gautier. He was sitting on a garbage pail and the lid caved in on him and he was stuck inside the garbage for a minute. Keith was running around laughing saying 'Where's my camera? I can't believe I have a million dollar designer in my garbage'. At the time I didn't even know who Jean



©Keith Haring Foundation

Paul was until I saw him on Entertainment Tonight the following week with the same striped jersey he was wearing that day in Keith's studio.

"The most distinct thing that I can say about Keith Haring is that he believed in me the very first day we met which is more that I can say for most people in my life who expressed doubt when I made the decision to become an artist and live out what my inner voice has been telling me.

JOYFUL Sound

Debby Holiday - Back at #1

By Richard Packard

Debby Holiday broke into the dance scene five years ago with 2004's celebrated summer anthem Dive. More dance floor hits quickly followed including the power ballad Half A Mile Away, Bring It On and last summer's Surrender Me. Her latest track, Joyful Sound, is featured in this season's hit LOGO show Sordid Lives: The Series – and just hit #1 on the leading dance music site, Masterbeat.com.

Do you get mistaken for the other Holiday?

You mean Jennifer? Not very often. Although with a voice like hers, I certainly wouldn't mind if I did.

Your Dad was another famous Holiday.

My dad, Jimmy Holiday, wrote so many amazing songs. The most famous, "Put A Little Love in Your Heart" is still heard in a popular butter commercial.

Did he influence your career?

I got my "I don't give a damn" attitude from him. He also taught me to never give up. He was tough. When I was young, he would pull me over to the piano and correct my vocal notes until I got them right.

Debby Holiday is known for her summer anthems. Why did you decide to release JOYFUL SOUND now?

The timing was strictly based around the launch of the Del Shores series, "Sordid Lives". Joyful Sound will be heard in the season finale.

Your first song, Dive, was featured on QUEER AS FOLK. We're noticing a trend here…

Today, television plays a huge part in getting your music heard. I have a long list of people to thank for getting my music out there from Del Shores to Andrew Briskin, and of course the DJ/Producers like Scotty K and Chris Cox. I am truly grateful to everyone who has helped me.

Some personal questions:

Are you a mama's girl? Or was Daddy more your thing?

I didn't really grow up in much of a traditional household. I was on my own from a very young age. So, I'm gonna have to say, I am my own girl.

Of all your hits, which is your favorite and why?

Easy: "Dive". It's where it all started.

Besides music, what sound brings you the most joy?

Silence can be utterly beautiful.

Who are your favorite designers?

Christian Satrustegui of Rebellion Dogs (rebellion-dogs.com) blows me away. He has designed several pieces for me and has never failed to shine.

Where can we find you at 9pm on a typical Tuesday night?

In my studio working on music, or at the gym, or these days, parked in front of CNN with a glass of wine.

For more info, visit DebbyHoliday.com.

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Asheville North Carolina

A mountain city of about 75,000 residents, Asheville is still something of an undiscovered gem among many lesbian and gay travelers, although with its relative proximity to Atlanta, Charlotte, and Nashville, it's definitely becoming more and more well-known as a progressive place to live and visit. This lively university community supports a sizable crop of stellar restaurants and cafes (many of them emphasizing organic and sustainable foods), several cool and welcoming gay bars and live music clubs, and dozens of engaging antiques shops, crafts boutiques, and art galleries. It's also an excellent destination for hiking and outdoor recreation - it has a moderate climate that produces a bit of snow in the winter but seldom severely low temperatures, and the summer weather is several degrees cooler than in the rest of the South.

The sunset view of Asheville from the upper terrace of the Grove Park Inn (Photo by Andrew Collins)

Downtown Asheville sits like a saucer balanced precariously amid the slopes of numerous and verdant mountains. It's historically well preserved, with many great old buildings - including numerous examples of Art Deco architecture. In the city's residential neighborhoods, finely restored Victorian and Arts and Crafts houses abound - many of them are romantic, upscale inns.

The surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains account for much of the region's appeal - it's an hour's drive west to reach Great Smoky Mountains National Park. You can also navigate a stretch of the winding, scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, which passes right through the center of Asheville on its way north toward Virginia. Many other state parks and forests are within a short drive, and right in the city you can appreciate nature with a stroll through the 10-acre Botanical Gardens at Asheville or the 434-acre North Carolina Arboretum.

Downtown is great for walking around - it's also quite hilly, though, so expect to get some exercise. Be sure to stop by the Asheville Art Museum, which has an esteemed collection of contemporary American works, and if you're a fan of modern American literature, check out the Thomas Wolfe Memorial, which includes a visitor center and the boarding house in which the author of _You Can't Go Home Again_ grew up.

Almost every visitor to Asheville pays a visit to the Biltmore Estate, one of America's few true castles. The 250-room mansion and resplendent grounds were commissioned by the phenomenally wealthy railroad tycoon George Vanderbilt and executed by Richard Morris Hunt in 1895; right on property, the luxurious, 213-room Inn on Biltmore Estate offers swank accommodations, and nearby Biltmore Village is rife with upscale shopping. You could easily spend a full day here.

Asheville has dozens of both funky and fine eateries, and you'll often see GLBT residents and visitors at many of the city's leading culinary venues. Set inside one of Asheville's landmark 1920s buildings, the Grove Arcade, you'll find a wonderful wine bar (and retail shop) called Sante. The outstanding selection of moderately priced, hard-to-find vintages and simple but flavorful food make this a winner, and the staff is extremely fun and friendly. On the other side of the Grove Arcade, Carmel's Restaurant and Bar specializes in contemporary seafood and American fare and has a handsome little dining room plus plenty of seating outside along the sidewalk.

Flying Frog Wine Bar and Cafe, a smartly decorated but informal spot along busy Haywood Street, presents a varied menu that includes German, Indian, and American dishes. At Vincenzo's you can dine on exceptionally good Northern Italian fare in the dining room and listen to live jazz and piano in a bistro on the lower level. Savoy serves excellent modern American fare, such as pan-roasted lobster with rosemary cream. Trendy and darkly inviting Zambra presents a frequently changing menu of tasty Spanish tapas, including pomegranate-braised pork spring rolls and grilled scallops with parsnip-potato gratin.

Gay-popular Early Girl Eatery has a tremendous following for its fresh yet somewhat decadent creative Southern fare, including a knockout fried-chicken salad with grits-croutons, and some of the heartiest breakfast food in town. Another Southern-style eatery that's become legendary for its delicious food using mostly local ingredients is Tupelo Honey - try the breakfast of Eggs Crawley (two eggs cooked any way over crab cakes with asparagus). Laughing Seed serves creative vegetarian fare, and Green Sage Coffee House is an eco-conscious spot with a wide-selection of fine teas and fair-trade coffees, plus local organic beer, leafy salads, egg-and-cheddar biscuits, and delectable sweets.

Consider stopping by Malaprops Bookstore and Cafe, a terrific and gay-popular independent bookstore, for a flavored latte or a light bite. Malaprops is along a busy stretch of cool shops that include a superb artisan candy-maker, Chocolate Fetish; a hip men's and women's clothier, Union; and several excellent art galleries. Be sure to stop inside the old five-and-dime store, Woolworth Walk, which has been converted into a two-floor co-op showing the wares of more than 150 artists who live within the region (there's also a soda fountain serving sandwiches, ice cream, and root-beer floats).

For nightlife, check out Hairspray bar and disco, which is named for outrageous indie film director John Waters and has a kitschy interior designed in his honor. The crowd is eclectic and fun, with more of a lesbian presence than other gay hangouts in Asheville, and campy drag shows keep the crowds entertained. Scandals is a popular gay dance club that draws an all-ages crowd, including quite a few straights - it's the best place to dance in town, and it tends to be absolutely packed on weekends.

Head to the downtown neighborhood tavern Smokey's After Dark to shoot pool, drink inexpensive cocktails, and mingle with locals before heading out to one of the larger clubs. O'Henry's is a cruisy locals bar on the edge of downtown that's a hit with bears and the over-40 set. And women-owned Tressa's - with live jazz and blues, comedy, and dancing - has a loyal following in the GLBT community.

Asheville has several inviting, gay-friendly inns, from upscale historic mansions to cozy Arts and Crafts cottages. The city's most renowned accommodation is the Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa, one of the nation's foremost historic resort hotels, which has been fully restored to its original 1913 Arts and Crafts design. You'll find one of the South's most impressive spas on the lower level, and restaurants and bars affording panoramic views of

continued on page 29

Out of Town con'td

the city skyline and surrounding mountains.

One of North Carolina's finest small hotels, the Richmond Hill Inn comprises an impeccably restored 1889 mansion and several newer outbuildings offering some of the most gorgeous accommodations in the Southeast, many of them with two-person whirlpool tubs and most with fireplaces. The inn is surrounded by 8 acres of Victorian gardens, and many rooms view the surrounding mountains. The staff is friendly, attentive, yet refreshingly unpretentious. The restaurant, Gabrielle, is top-notch and a perfect place to celebrate a special occasion.

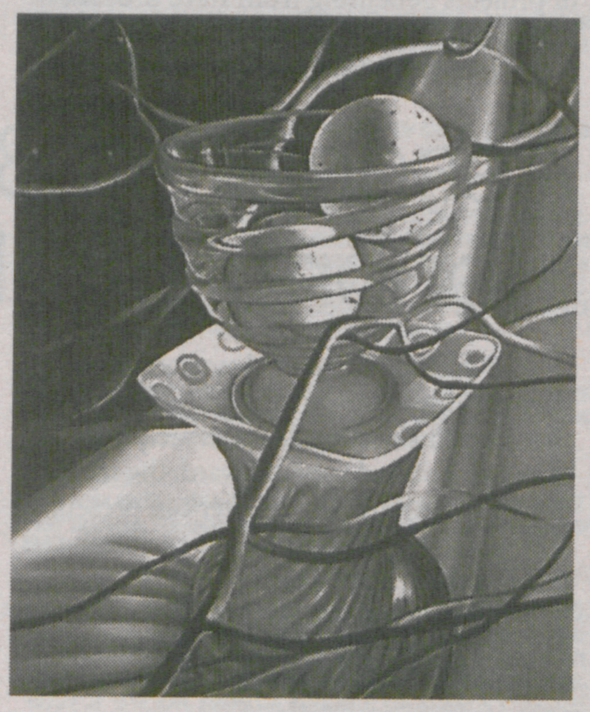
The stunning shingle-style Inn on Montford dates to 1900 and sits on beautifully landscaped grounds that include the largest Norway maple tree in North Carolina. Rooms contain a priceless mix of 18th- and 19th-century English and American pieces. Herb and rose gardens surround the 1889 shingle-style White Gate Inn & Cottage, one of the city's gay-owned properties - commitment ceremonies are frequently held here. The romantic, antiques-filled rooms have Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs with DVD and CD players - they're named for poets (Whitman, Wilde, Sandburg, etc.), and one cottage has a gas fireplace and full kitchen. A stay at any of these first-rate properties may have you understanding why gays and lesbians are steadily becoming enamored of Asheville's many charms.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book

Asheville Tourism (828-258-6101, www.exploreasheville.com).
Carmel's Restaurant and Bar (828-252-8730, www.carmelsofasheville.com).
Early Girl Eatery (828-259-9292, www.earlygirleatery.com).
Flying Frog Wine Bar & Cafe (828-254-9411, www.flyingfrogcafe.com).
Green Sage Coffee House (828-252-4450, www.thegreensage.net).
Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa (828-252-2711 or 800-438-5800, www.groveparkinn.com).
Hairspray (828-258-2027, www.clubhairspray.com).
Inn on Montford (828-254-9569 or 800/254-9569, www.innonmontford.com).
Laughing Seed (828-252-3445, www.laughingseed.com).
Malaprops Bookstore and Cafe (828-254-6734, www.malaprops.com).
O'Henry's (828-254-1891).
Richmond Hill Inn (828-252-7313 or 800-545-9238, www.richmondhillinn.com).
Sante (828-254-8188, www.santewinebar.com).
Savoy (828-253-1077, www.savoyasheville.com).
Scandals (828-252-2838, www.clubscandals.net).
Smokey's After Dark (828-253-2155).
Tressa's (828-254-7072, www.tressasdowntownjazzandblues.com).
Tupelo Honey (828-255-4863, www.tupelohoneycafe.com).
Vincenzo's (828-254-4698, www.vincenzos.com).
White Gate Inn (828-253-2553 or 800-485-3045, www.whitegate.net).
Zambra (828-232-1060, www.zambratapas.com).

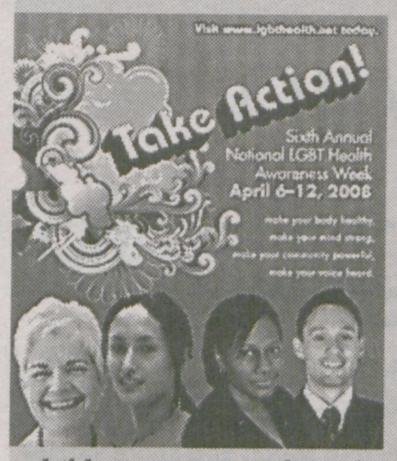
ARTS at 510 Exhibit until Mar. 28



It may be cold outside, but Susan Schreckengaust, Arts at 510, 510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, mounts a two month exhibit entitled "Colors" to warm the soul and intrigue the mind.

"Colors" features three extraordinary artists' works that are varied and yet each brilliant in both technique and appeal. The artists who are featured are all worthy of solo exhibitions and include Sarah Canfield, Trappe, PA, Judy Lupus, Philadelphia and Jeff Bye, Brooklyn. The exhibit runs until March 28.

Health Issues



April 6-12 National LGBT Health Week

April 6-12 is the 6th Annual National LGBT Health Week. Info: - National Coalition for LGBT Health, 1325 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 705, Washington, DC 20005 p: 202.558.6828 | f: 202.393.2241; coalition@lgbthealth.net

Bring Health Care to Children

The US House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization bill. According to Speaker Pelosi, nine million children are currently without health insurance, and this number will only increase while so many jobs are being lost.

Report on Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released their Annual Report on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), CDC Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance, 2007. The CDC report shows increased prevalence in STDs among people ages 15-19 and 20-24, age groups that account for only a quarterly of the sexually active population but half of all new STD infections.

Americans' Attitudes on Health Care

Results are in from a large survey conducted by researchers from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health on the public's opinions on a slew of healthcare issues, including what should be priorities for the new Administration and Congress. While the topmost priority is improving the economy, Americans rank improving healthcare as the third most important issue. Within the category of improving healthcare, coverage expansion, cost reduction and delivery system change are the top concerns. Perhaps not surprising, cost reduction came out as the number one priority.

Legal Guide on Transgender Immigrants

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has released the first immigration law practice manual for attorneys representing transgender clients.
The manual was co-authored by Immigration Equality and the Transgender Law Center. The manual, Immigration Law and the Transgender Client, is available online or in print from AILA here.

Transgender People and HIV

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has released their new HIV Evidence Report on "Transgender Persons and HIV." The brief report discusses the heightened risk for HIV infection among transgender people, what may be behind this higher risk and current HIV prevention and health care services, including problems with health insurance. Transgender persons have the highest rate of HIV infection in the state of California with 6.3%; this is more than any other group in the state. Research is needed in the rest of the country both to determine if similar infection rates among transgender people exist, and if so, where increased prevention and health services need to be focused.

Pet Store Owner Offers Healthy Alternative

Four years ago when Kristen Zellner began working at Abrams & Weakley-20General Store for Animals, she had no idea how popular she would become with customers as the owner. She recently purchased the store in January, 2009.

"We had been regular customer's ourselves," Zellner says, referring to her partner Becky Schuchert. Well-known Beth Abrams and her partner Judy Weakley had the popular gathering place for 23 years themselves. Like any small business, the establishment was driven by flair, familiarity, and good service.

Zellner adds to the store's original energy. So does her partner Schuchert whose Sparky's Neonworks is located next door. "The store had a loyal customer base upon my purchase and I've been fortunate to acquire many new customers," Zellner says. Like the original owners and customers, and our new people, everyone brings something special to our retail environment.

Although there are no pets for sale in the store, Zellner regularly helps people find pets through reputable breeders or rescue organizations. "I'm really an advocate of finding homes for unwanted animals," she says. Zellner offers a cornucopia of healthy and alternative pet foods, treats and supplements. "Customers think of us as health food store for pets," she says. She offers human grade, all natural foods and grooming services with high quality but affordable products used to have your pet ready for the runway. Paul Freeman and Sharon Keating provide grooming services. "We even offer animal nutrition advice, vet referrals, and recommend pet sitters, and other pet related services."

Zellner is known in pet circles from her work with other organizations. She offers food discounts to the Susquehanna Service Dogs program as well as local rescue organizations. "Becky and I have four rescue dogs at home." Informally, the store offers20a food drop-off exchange for customers, akin to a food bank. Zellner also donates unwanted food to local rescues.
Abrams & Weakley General Store for Animals, 3963 N. 6th St., Harrisburg; 232-3963.

Local Woman's Shelter Story in National Magazine

When Harrisburg native Karolyn Kelly-O'Keefe began her battle with cancer in 2001, she knew she faced a difficult road. However, perhaps the most difficult part was realizing she had to give up her three beloved cats – Hoover, Thomas, and Army – as a result of her illness.

The latest issue of the Humane Society of the United States' All Animals magazine features the story of how the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area (HSHA) found new homes for her cats and sparked an unlikely friendship between Kelly-O'Keefe and her cats' new adopter, Peg Stapleton.

"Peg had adopted them within two days of their arrival at the shelter…She cried tears of joy when she read that I wished her many more happy years with the boys," Kelly-O'Keefe says in the article.

Today, Stapleton and Kelly-O'Keefe continue to keep in touch and share stories and gifts for the cats. "…I tell everyone the story of how Peg Stapleton and the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area saved the lives of three ginger-colored kitties – and gave me the priceless gift of peace of mind – by rescuing us all when we needed it most," O'Keefe says.

The mission of the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area (HSHA) is to build a better community for pets and people through compassion, protection, education, and collaboration. Info: Kelly Hitz, 717.564.3320 ext.110; kellyh@humanesocietyhbg.org.

50 Pets Adopted on Change a Pet's Life Day

Thanks to Hill's Science Diet's "Change a Pet's Life Day" the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area (HSHA), 18 pets have found new homes and 30 more adoptions are pending approval. The adoption event was designed to transform the lives of homeless pets by offering the first ten adoptions of the day for free.

"Although only ten adoptions were free, we had an overwhelming response and many more than ten homeless pets found great new homes," said Kelly Hitz, director of public relations at HSHA.

More than 40 potential adopters lined up outside HSHA two hours before the doors opened. All adoptions came with a free bag of Hill's Science Diet food. Although the first ten approved adoptions were free, HSHA's adoption policies and procedures still applied.

Info: Kelly Hitz, 717.564.3320 ext.110; kellyh@humanesocietyhbg.org.

Orphaned puppy "Baby Bear" was nursed by a mother cat at the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area. Now called Coco Bear, the puppy thrives in his new home with Mechanicsburg's Shellenberger family. "We fell in love with Baby Bear as soon as we saw him," said his adopter Jim Shellenberger "He has been such a great addition to our family, and we are so grateful to HSHA for giving him a chance at life."

York's Penske Trucks Supports Pet Food Bank

York's Penske Trucks of York donates available trucks to support the work of the Animal Rescue Food Bank (ARF), a nonprofit organization supplying food to rescues and shelters in Pennsylvania and 10 other states.ARF operates solely through donations and volunteers."Penske's generosity in donating the use of their trucks gives us a vital resource to transport the hundreds of pounds of food and other supplies that are donated to ARF each year. We are very grateful for their generosity."

Carlisle Events
March-April 09

March 7
Lawilowan American Indian Festival Pow Wow
Carlisle Expo Center, 100 K St. - Carlisle, PA
Traditional, non-competitive event. Open to public 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Grand Entry at Noon. Admission: $5 per person. Dancers in regalia, invited drums and vendors, children 10 and under, and elders, free. Host Drum: White Buffalo Singers. Head Lady: Toni Seaflower. Head Man: Peppi EagleWing. Emcee: Don Hockenberry. Contact: Noni Many Hawks 717-776-1075; *ManyHawks@Comcast.net.*

March 19
Live Well with Diabetes
2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., The Live Well Center 3 Alexandra Court, Carlisle, PA

March 21
Central PA Reptile Expo
hosted by Kordek's Kritters, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., $7, Kids under 6 are FREE
www.centralpareptileexpo.com, info@centralpareptileexpo.com

April 24-25
Spring Carlisle Auction, hosted by Carlisle Events, *www.carlisleevents.com*

Lancaster Events
March-April 09

March 7
Oh, the Humanities! (Lancaster - Tour)
In Franklin & Marshall's Mask and Wig's 121st Annual Production, "Oh, the Humanities!" the club takes patrons to Florence, Italy during the Renaissance. Includes Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Leo's girlfriend Mona Lisa smooches Mike in public, making the front page of the tabloids! Info: *www.eventbrite.com/event/243811246*

Every Week
Sunday Market 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Bring yourself, family, friends to the 300 Block of North Queen Street in Downtown Lancaster and discover the new Sunday Market @ Building Character, as well as great shopping at oodles of delightful stores. Sunday Market runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking area outside the store. Look for a smattering of interesting finds, including antiques, collectibles, artists' handiwork and other delightful treasures. And don't miss delicious treats from Nick's Pizza, famous BBQ from Catering Concepts Unlimited and sweet creations from pastry chef Eric Moshier. Vendor spaces available by calling 394-7201, or *info@buildingcharacter.biz.* Info: *www.buildingcharacter.biz/assembly.*

Race Against Racism 5K April 25

The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg's annual Race Against Racism 5K walk/run is April 25. Last year the event raised over $40,000. The race benefits a number of community programs. For a detailed list of projects benefiting from Race proceeds, please call Gillian Byerly at 717.724.2248.

Racial Justice is one of the Hallmark Programs of the YWCA. It carries out a key component of the organization's mission and is a reflection of our brand. Hallmark Programs have direct impact and create meaningful change with measurable results. The purpose of the program is raise awareness of issues and affect real change.

Associated Builders Honors Harold Nightingale

Keystone Chapter, Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. (ABC) announced that Harold Nightingale is the recipient of the distinguished service award, the most prestigious award this chapter can present an individual. Nightingale is only the ninth recipient in the chapter's history of this award.

Nightingale began his ABC service in 1982, joined the board of directors in 1984 and became chapter president in 1989 when membership reached 570. He served as treasurer for nine years. He is champion and supporter of the Merit Shop Training and Research Center with 45 graduated on his watch.

ABC Keystone represents over 825 construction-related firms locally and is part of a national federation with 1,800 members in Pennsylvania and over 25,000 members in 80 chapters nationwide.

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Stonewall Veterans to Lead PrideFest Unity Parade

continued from page 1

demonstrated and demanded their rights as human beings and American citizens.

Jeff Clouser, President, Pride Festival of Central PA Board of Directors, says "SVA's appearance fits in well with the theme of this year's Pride Festival which is 'Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights: Stonewall Rebellion 40th Anniversary.'"

Besides marching the parade, Smith says the festival is hoping to organize a Sunday event in which the SVA presents a first hand account of the historical Stonewall rebellion. The group will host a booth at the festival and collect donations to fund its educational, community-building, and outreach programs. Programs, as well as shelter, food, and medical care for Stonewall veterans. One of the goals of the SVA is to create a permanent Stonewall Veterans Memorial Monument in New York City's Greenwich Village. Info: www.STONEWALLvets.org; Stonewall Veterans' Association, 70-A Greenwich Avenue, Suite 120 Manhattan, NY 10011.

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